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Skem teenager wins Young Citizen accolade

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FOOTBALL CLUB'S FUTURE 'HANGING IN THE BALANCE'

Failure to secure new lease on ground could see Skem kicked out of league

THE chairman of Skelmersdale United Football Club says the club's future is hanging in the balance this week after the owners of the ground where the team play - the Uretek Stadium in Selby Place - refused to grant them a new lease.

And he says the 135-year-old club have until midnight on Friday (March 31) to confirm to the Northern Premier League that they have a ground for next playing season or face being thrown out of the league.

Now the chairman, Paul Griffiths, is seeking help and support from supporters and local residents to help resolve the matter.

He said: "We have got to show ground security of tenure for the following playing season and at the moment we can't do that. We couldn't apply to the North West Counties League either and the best we could hope to do is play 'park' football.

"In January, the owners of the site, Chequer Properties, offered an extension from November of this year, when our lease runs out, to November of the following year, but they wanted £12,000 for it, which we didn't accept.

Report by **Henry James**

"We thought we had an option to renew the lease for a further 12 years on a peppercorn rent from this year, but Martin Gilchrist at Chequer Properties is saying we should have registered that option three months after the beginning of the lease in 2005.

"We also had the ground valued and made him a financial offer for the lease, which he has refused.

"We have been trying for almost two years to reach an agreement to remain in business at our stadium, but Chequer Properties have refused to grant an official new lease or extension.

"Without this we will be thrown out of the league and this great community club with its proud history, may be lost forever.

"We would appreciate support and help from anyone to resolve this matter, and keep former Amateur Cup Winners, Skelmersdale United alive and well for the West Lancashire community.

Continued inside

Skelmersdale United vice-chairman Paul Fenney pictured at the ground

Community projects win Big Lottery Fund backing

THREE community projects in Skelmersdale are set to receive a combined total of nearly £30,000 in the latest round of grants by the Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All scheme.

Little Digmoor Primary School's Little Haven project has been awarded £9,990.

The funding will be used by the school to create an outdoor recreation area, including an outdoor classroom.

The project aims to provide the community with a place to learn about and enjoy nature, as well as space to socialise in a safe environment.

Holland Moor Primary School's Pod Puzzlers initiative has been awarded £9,910.

This will help deliver an area for outdoor puzzle games and sensory tactile challenges for children at the Cornbrook school who struggle in social settings, who have ADHD or are on the autistic spectrum.

The scheme aims to reduce isolation and improve opportunities to develop their social, language and communication skills.

And the Divine Days Community Arts CIC's Community Connections in West Lancashire project has been awarded £10,000.

The money will be used to deliver a series of creative and physical arts based sessions to vulnerable adults, including those with additional needs, and families who are excluded because they are economically challenged.

Aim of the project is to increase the self-esteem of participants, and improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

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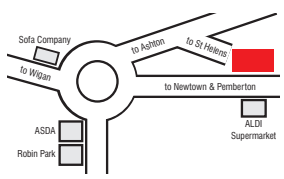

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Linda Connolly (left) and Tina Hill (right) receive the cheque from Alison Wood and Will Oldfield

Golfers chip in with £16,400 cheque for hospital children's unit

GENEROUS local golfers have teed up a five-figure boost for a worthy cause by staging a series of fundraising events over the past year.

Members of Hurlston Hall Golf Club in Scarisbrick raised a total of £16,400 for the Children's Unit at Ormskirk and District Hospital.

The club's 2016 captain, Will Oldfield, said: "This is a terrific result and I am bursting with pride at the generosity of the club membership."

Key fundraising activity of the year was a Longest Day Challenge with 23 golfers playing 72 holes in a day at the club, starting at 4.30am and finishing just before 10pm. Members and friends supported the event during the day, providing refreshments, marshalling and moral support.

Other fundraising activities included a novel 'virtual nearest the pin' competition based on the 7th hole at Pebble Beach during the Captain's Away Day in July.

Linda Connolly, Ormskirk Hospital's assistant matron for paediatrics and neonates, and Tina Hill, paediatric practice development nurse, went along to receive the cheque from club captains, Alison Wood and Will Oldfield, at a presentation evening at the club.

Linda said: "We were honoured to be chosen as the club's charity for 2016.

"Members have worked hard at raising an amazing sum of money and we would like to express our greatest appreciation to everyone. Their fundraising and generosity will be put to good use to benefit the patients who attend the unit."

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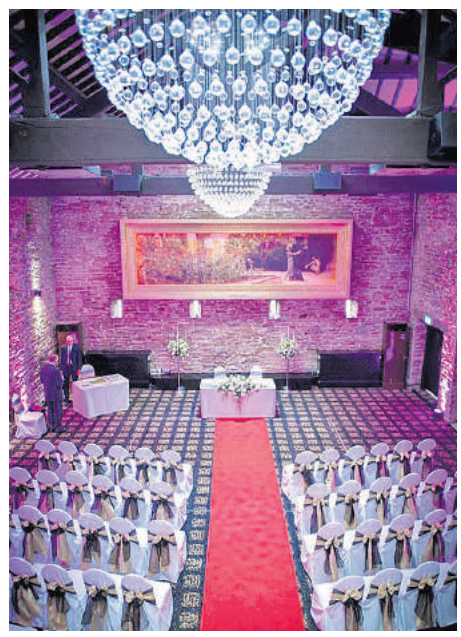

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The sky's the limit for cancer survivor Gemma!

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

Sponsored sky-dive for charity is next challenge for intrepid 26-year-old

A SKIN cancer survivor from Skelmersdale says she is ready to take the plunge, literally, for her next huge challenge - by jumping out of a plane thousands of feet in the air in aid of Cancer Research!

Gemma Cottam, 26, made international headlines in 2015 when she bravely launched a campaign to make more people aware of how common melanomas can be in people under the age of 30.

And, much to the delight of Gemma's family and friends, results last year showed that she has beaten the disease.

Now she is turning her attention to making sure her campaign - catchingly entitled Mela-no-more - helps others who are either fighting or recovering from melanomas.

Part of this will involve Gemma and her partner Paul, along with two other friends, strapping on parachutes and jumping out of a plane in a bid to raise £1,000 for Cancer Research.

Speaking to the Champion, an understandably nervous but excited Gemma said she was more than ready for the next challenge.

She said: "We want to show cancer who's the boss.

"My partner Paul and I and two friends, John and Victoria will jumping out of a plane on Sunday, April 2 to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

"We're doing it because we all know and love someone who's been affected by cancer, and with my personal story I really wanted to give back to the charity whose research helped to save my life.

Gemma and her partner Paul

"Compared to the fight I've been through already, jumping out of a plane seems like nothing but I won't lie and say I'm not just a little bit terrified!

Motivation

"You only live once so you have to live it everyday and do stuff that creates amazing memories so why not do this and raise some money and awareness too.

"But like I've said before, I nearly died because of this horrible, cruel disease and unfortunately there are people who do - there are so many people right now fighting this disease so this challenge is for them too!

"My family are really proud but shocked as they know how terrified I am of heights.

"Of course the motivation is simple. I've had a few scares since my all-clear last year, which has only egged me on.

"I wanted to plan some way of giving back and this will now become a yearly thing where we raise money for various charities as the support and treatment you receive doesn't just stop after you get a clear result - you still need check ups and treatment for years afterwards.

"I am currently undergoing laser and steroid treatment for my scars and have full body mole checks every three months and will do for the next 10 years.

"The rates of relapse are still high so you have to stay vigilant but you learn to live again and I think this is an amazing way to show cancer who's boss!"

To find out more about Gemma's skydive or to sponsor her visit www.gofundme.com/my-sponsored-charity-sky-dive.

Future of town's football club hanging in the balance, says chairman

From Page 1

"This closure would be a tragedy for Skelmersdale United, its fans and the wider community."

Mr Griffiths claims that Chequer Properties, who also own Burscough FC, plan to move Burscough to Skem's ground if United closes.

Although Skem are currently struggling at the foot of the Northern Premier League Premier Division, the club has a proud history, including winning the FA Amateur Cup in 1971 beating Dagenham 4-1 at Wembley.

They had also reached the final in 1967 before losing to Enfield in a replay at Maine Road after drawing at Wembley in front of a 75,000 crowd - at the time the highest attendance at the stadium for any game other than an international or League Cup or FA Cup final.

Notable past players for the club incude former Liverpool winger and Ireland international, Steve Heighway.

Meanwhile, West Lancs MP, Rosie Cooper has pledged her support in the fight to save the club.

She said: "I was extremely shocked and disappointed to learn that Skelmersdale United F.C's future hangs in the balance over being unable to reach agreement on renewing its lease at Stormy Corner.

"Having been to matches at the club and from the messages I am receiving from constituents, it is evident how much this football club means to its supporters. Many people have volunteered their time over many years to keep the club running. There is no doubt if the club had to fold it would be a massive blow for so many people and the community of Skelmersdale of which it has been a part since 1882.

"I have spoken to the club chairman and have sought to make contact with the landlord of the ground in an attempt to find a positive resolution that will see Skelmersdale United F.C. still playing non-league football next season.

"I am also in contact with Evo-Stik League, the FA and am raising the issue with ministers at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as I explore all avenues to help Skelmersdale United's survival."

Chequer Properties and the Northern Premier League Premier Division have been contacted for comment but at the time of going to press had not responded.

Have you seen missing boy?

SKELMERSDALE Police are appealing for information with regards to the whereabouts of 13-year-old James McKeown who is missing from home.

James *(pictured, right)* was last seen in the Digmoor area of the town on the afternoon of Friday, March 25.

Anyone who thinks they may have seen James after that date, or who has any information regarding his whereabouts is asked to ring the police on 101 and quote log number LC-20170324-0978.

Bus company set to axe 313 Ashurst service from July

BUS operator Arriva North West has given notice of plans to axe the 313 bus service serving the Ashurst area of Skelmersdale from July.

The announcement has prompted West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper to contact the leader of Lancashire County Council, Councillor Jennifer Mein, calling for a replacement service to be secured to ensure that the residents of Ashurst are not left "disconnected and isolated".

At present the 313 is the only local bus route that serves the estates around Ashurst.

Passengers use the service to travel to the Concourse Shopping Centre and the bus station where they can access connecting services to other parts of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk, Liverpool, Wigan and further afield.

Ms Cooper said: "It is a horrendous situation in the 21st century that an ever-growing number of residents have no access or very limited access to public transport services.

"The loss of the 313 service in Ashurst will be a massive blow for many residents. It is the only service that serves the estates around Ashurst and provides a half-hourly service. Many residents also use this service to connect with other bus services to get to work or to school or travel to the town-centre shops.

"I have spoken to Arriva North West but they are proceeding with their decision to terminate this service.

"I have also called on Lancashire County Council, as the transport authority, to act to protect this service by finding a new operator.

"Losing another bus service would be yet another devastating blow to public transport provision here in West Lancashire."

Oliver Starkey, head of public and integrated transport at Lancashire County Council, commented: "We received formal notification from Arriva last week of their intention to de-register the 313 bus service, with Saturday, July 22 as the final day of operation.

An Arriva bus - a sight that won't be seen in Ashurst from July 23 after the company announced plans to axe the 313 service

"We're aware of the impact which losing this commercial service could have on the people who rely on it, and our first step will be to approach other operators to make them aware of the opportunity to provide a service in this area. We will consider how the county council may be able to respond if another operator is not forthcoming."

Richard Hoare, head of operations at Arriva North West, commented: "For the past few years Arriva has made every effort to keep the 313 service running despite low passenger numbers. In January this year, support for funding from Lancashire County Council was rejected, meaning we've had to make the unfortunate decision to withdraw it. This will be effective as of July 23."

Back-to-front day raises £260!

STAFF and pupils at Holland Moor Primary raised £260 for Comic Relief by staging a 'back-to-front day' at the school in Cornbrook on Red Nose Day (Friday, March 24).

Youngsters wore their clothes back to front and sported crazy hairstyles, while the school even had a junior assembly where headteacher, Mr Beale, spoke his words backwards!

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Couple raise £1,400-plus for Down's Syndrome charity

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A COUPLE whose daughter was diagnosed with Down's Syndrome 30 minutes after being born have raised more than £1,400 just weeks after launching a campaign to raise awareness and funds for research into the condition.

Ste and Katie Brookes, who have a three-year-old daughter Emily, were overjoyed when their second daughter, Alice, was born at the Ormskirk Hospital's Neonatal Unit in October.

But their joy soon turned to anxiety when Alice was diagnosed almost immediately when eagle-eyed staff quickly identified physical characteristics of the condition before a blood test confirmed the diagnosis.

Down's Syndrome is a genetic condition that usually causes learning disabilities and distinctive physical characteristics.

Bank worker Katie praised the staff for identifying that Alice had the condition almost immediately as this meant she could be checked for additional health concerns quickly. She was also grateful for the tactful way that they handled breaking this important information.

The couple from Old Skelmerdale held their first annual fundraiser to mark World Down's Syndrome Awareness Day this month when joiner Ste was sponsored to have his shoulder-length hair shaved off at Urban Hair on High Street, Skelmersdale.

Donations, which have reached £1,435 including Gift Aid, are still being collected and the family will donate the funds to national charity, The Down's Syndrome Association, whose Tell it Right campaign aims to educate staff in hospitals, midwives, nurses and paediatricians how to tell parents and provide support for the families of children diagnosed with the condition before or after birth.

Katie said: "We are currently at £1,435 with some donations still to be added. We would like to thank our family and friends, staff from the Co-operative Bank, Bickerstaffe FC, their players and supporters, staff at Urban Hair and the congregation of St Paul's Church for all of their support."

Left: Going . . . The big shave-off gets underway at Urban Hair on High Street, Skelmersdale.

Above: Gone . . . Ste gives his new look the once-over

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Top chef returns to his Skem roots aiming to inspire next generation to find the recipe for success

Report by **Henry James**

A TALENTED chef who spent the majority of his younger years living in Skelmersdale is returning to the town aiming to inspire the next generation to follow in his foostteps and find the recipe for success.

James Holden who has worked at some of the top culinary venues in the country, including the world-famous Savoy Hotel in London, will be carrying out cookery workshops over the Easter holidays at the Concourse Centre in units 145 to 147.

He will be promoting these workshops at the Easter event on Saturday, April 8 and will be reaching out to the local schools to get involved with the workshops.

James is a member of The Royal Academy of Culinary Arts (RAOCA), a collection of the UK's leading head chefs, pastry chefs, and restaurant managers.

Other local members of the group include Paul Heathcote, Nigel Haworth, Craig Bancroft, and Paul Askew, while other famous names nationally and internationally include Michel Roux, Heston Blumenthal, Raymond Blanc, and Brian Turner.

The RAOCA has a charitable trust project called 'Adopt a School', for which James is the Northern Regional Chef (www.chefsadoptaschool.org.uk).

For the past 10 years he has been delivering this food education programme across the region in primary and secondary schools, and further education establishments.

James attended St Edmunds RC Primary in Skelmersdale, followed by St Bede's RC High School in Ormskirk, before doing catering training at Southport College.

Thrilled

He said: "I am thrilled that the Concourse has agreed to allow me to do cookery classes this Easter, as I spent the majority of my younger years living in Skelmersdale, so it will be great to be returning and putting something back into the area where I grew up.

"It will give me the chance to teach cooking healthy food and to inspire the next generation about the possibilities there are for them in this wonderful industry in which I have made a successful career."

Jennifer Burnett, retail marketing manager at the Concourse Shopping Centre, commented: "We're really excited to welcome James and the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts to the Concourse Shopping Centre over the Easter holidays.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for children of Skelmersdale to learn all about where fresh food comes from and what they can do with it. The workshops look like great fun and I'm looking forward to seeing how the kids get on with their creations."

Top chef James Holden

Grant receives his award from the High Sheriff of Lancashire, John Barnett, watched by Joel Arber, pro-vice chancellor of UCLAN, and Ian Cosh, director of resources at Lancashire Constabulary

Skem teenager is High Sheriff of Lancashire's Young Citizen of the Year

Report by **Henry James**

A SKELMERSDALE teenager who turned his life around after overcoming a troubled upbringing has been named the High Sheriff of Lancashire's Young Citizen of the Year 2017.

Grant Walker, 18, received the prestigious award ahead of more than 65 other inspiring young people from across the county who have made a real difference in their community.

The youngster had a troubled upbringing with both parents heavy drugs-users and was left homeless just two days before his 18th birthday.

But with the help of The Birchwood Centre he was encouraged back into education and had a safe place to call home.

He completed the Prince's Trust programme in Skelmersdale and helped transform Tanhouse Community gardens.

Grant then travelled to Burkina Faso in Africa to help re-build a community where vulnerable, mentally and physically impaired adults and children can now be happy and enjoy learning. The community now has offices, class rooms, playing areas and somewhere safe that the people can feel they belong.

Grant said: "I did not know I had been nominated for the award until I returned from Africa last December.

"Life is so completely different in Africa. It was a massive culture shock to see the world in a different light. It also showed me how bad the problems are in the world and how petty some of our concerns are.

"Without the help of the Prince's Trust and the Birchwood Centre, I don't think I would have had the confidence to do what I have done. Going back into education has definitely make me feel more hopeful.

"I want to thank the businesses that helped me get to Africa and Paula Kearnes from the Birchwood Centre who helped me raise the money.

Imprint

"I also want to highlight the help of Young Lancashire, the E Rooms, the team members in Africa and International Citizens Service for organising the trip."

Grant was nominated for the award by his sister, Rachel.

Commenting on his recognition the organisers said: "Grant has left an imprint of his kindness and good will to help others across the world.

"He has proven that even though his own childhood was extremely challenging and his family unit was broken, that anyone can live their dreams if they put their minds to it.

"Grant has made the Tanhouse community gardens useable for the community to enjoy and he has helped shape a disabled charity in Africa that will benefit from his hard work for years to come."

The announcement was made during a special award ceremony at Lancashire Police headquarters in Hutton last week.

High Sheriff of Lancashire, John Barnett, said: "My wife Danielle and I were delighted with the number and variety of entrants for this year's prize, but, following careful adjudication with the judging panel, we felt Grant was a worthy winner.

"With an extremely challenging childhood and difficulties Grant still gave up his personal time selflessly to help rebuild a community in Africa bringing happiness and life into a disabled community which needed it the most and leaving an imprint of his kindness and good will to help others across the world.

"These awards are designed to celebrate the fantastic work young people like Grant do every day."

Chief Constable of Lancashire, Steve Finnigan added: "I would like to personally congratulate the winner, Grant, along with the runners-up for their outstanding, selfless contributions in helping others including disabled children in Africa, the homeless and those suffering with mental health issues."

Search for attacker after man hurt in robbery

A MAN was left with what police have described as "significant" injuries after being struck with an object during a robbery in Skelmersdale.

The incident happened shortly after 7pm on Saturday, March 25 at an address in Ivydale, Birch Green.

Following the attack, further threats were made and property was taken from the victim.

Skelmersdale Police said the victim has received medical treatment for injuries which were significant but not life-threatening.

The offender is described as a white male, aged 16 or 17 with a slim build and dressed all in dark clothing.

REMINDER

A spokesman for Skelmersdale Police said: "If anyone has any information about what happened they are asked to call 101 and quote log reference number LC-20170325-1451 and leave a message for the officer in the case, PC4525 Bailey at Skelmersdale police station.

"As a reminder, if you have any information of an evidential nature please do not post it on Facebook, call the 101 number or alternatively Crimestoppers, free and in confidence, on 0800 555 111."

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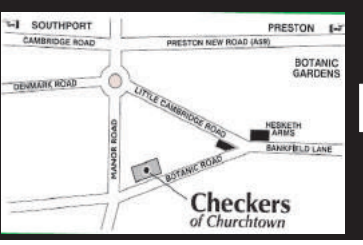

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Exciting developments at Sandy Lane Centre

FUN events for all ages are in store in the run-up to Easter at the Tree House Gallery, gift shop and café at the Sandy Lane Centre in Skelmersdale.

Children can make and paint their own Easter decoration, using dough and flour (gluten-free), led by professional artist Gaenor Hall on Wednesday, April 5 between 10.30am and 1.30pm and Wednesday, April 12 between 12.30 and 3.30pm.

Meanwhile the range of makers selling unique handmade goods at the centre is increasing and there are still plenty of opportunities as the first floor is being developed.

People who make and sell goods including clothes for all ages, accessories, gifts, candles, cards and soaps can take a space in the gallery from £5 a month. This is an opportunity for makers to promote what they do, and take commissions.

The development of the first floor will also provide an opportunity for local groups looking to exhibit their work.

A free programme of activities is being introduced from April at the Tree House Gallery, gift shop and café, offering a chance to learn a new skill.

Crochet drop-in sessions will take place every Wednesday from April 19 from 11am to noon. People can share experiences and skills, and there will be someone to guide beginners through getting started.

For those who enjoy board games to help to keep the brain ticking over, Friday is perfect for a visit with special free games activities between 1 and 4pm, including chess, scrabble, dominoes or draughts, starting from Friday, April 21.

Anyone aged 18-plus who fancies learning to paint can sign up for a free six-week block of sessions with a professional tutor. The course will start in May, and sessions are from 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1 to 2.30pm. Places are limited and must be booked in advance. Contact the Tree House on 07869 61753 for more information.

Dave Tilleray, West Lancs Council's director of leisure and wellbeing, said: "These are exciting times for the Tree House Gallery, gift shop and café so come along and see what is on offer."

The Tree House Gallery, gifts and café is a community venture run by the Friends of Sandy Lane and supported by West Lancs Council's arts development services.

If you would like to get involved with community developments there are still opportunities for volunteers at the Tree House, including shifts in the café where full training will be given.

The Friends of Sandy Lane group always welcome new members looking to get involved with future developments at Sandy Lane. For further information contact the Tree House on 07869 617353, email jenni.ashcroft@westlancs.gov.uk or see the Tree House Facebook page.

32 months jail for drug dealer caught after routine stop check

A MAN who was arrested by police as part of a drug crackdown in Skelmersdale has been jailed for 32 months for intent to supply class A drugs.

Sean Carter, of Kremlin Drive, Liverpool was sentenced at Preston Crown Court.

On Friday, February 17 officers from Operation Nemesis at Skelmersdale carried out a routine stop check on Carter on a footpath near to the Hillside health centre in Tanhouse.

Carter tried to escape but was successfully detained.

Following a search by officers the 23-year-old was found to be in possession of approximately £2,000 worth of heroin and crack cocaine, along with about £1,000 in cash.

Carter was arrested on suspicion of possession of class A controlled drugs with intent to supply and the money was seized by officers.

A subsequent search of his home address was conducted where a further quantity of heroin was discovered.

Carter pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply class A drugs and was sentenced to 32 month' imprisonment.

He was also sentenced to 32 months' imprisonment for possession with intent to supply crack cocaine, the sentences to run concurrently, and ordered to pay a £170 victim surcharge and a forfeiture of cash fee of £1,000.

'This result carries a clear message to those people wishing to come into our community and commit crime that it will not be tolerated either by local residents or by the police'

Operation Nemesis is Lancashire Police's initiative to crackdown, disrupt and dismantle organised crime.

A spokesman for Skelmersdale Police said: "Once again this is a positive court result which would not have been attainable if it was not for the co-operation of the people of Skelmersdale. This result carries a clear message to those people wishing to come into our community and commit crime that it will not be tolerated either by local residents or by the police.

"Operation Nemesis officers will continue to target those committing crime in our area and will act on any information provided to the police."

People who have any information about drug-related crime in their area can contact the police anonymously either by calling 101 or using Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Residents can also attend Skelmersdale police station and ask to speak to an officer from Operation Nemesis in person.

Care Home stages Dementia Awareness Day

STAFF at Cardinal Heenan House dementia care home in Roby Mill, Up Holland staged a Dementia Awareness Day.

The event revolved around a fundraising initiative from the Pastoral Care Project (PCP) which for the last eight years has been promoting prayer and awareness nationally of people living with dementia.

The theme of this year's event was 'The Father's Love', inspired by Bishop David McGough, Archdiocese of Birmingham.

The morning chapel session topics were The Father's Love - scriptural and other quotations relating to life's journey, including fear experienced by people who suffer dementia.

After a buffet lunch prepared by Cardinal Heenan House staff, the afternoon chapel sessions heard from experiences of three people who had recently suffered bereavement.

The group also heard from a NHS physio and Dementia Friends champion, who has worked with dementia patients for some years.

The afternoon ended with a second dining room presentation for younger children.

Children, from St Marie's, Standish also sang for the residents.

Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Liz Savage and her consort, Councillor Noel Delaney joined the first dining room presentation and chatted with people during lunch.

Participants in the Dementia Awareness Day at Cardinal Heenan House

The day concluded with Mass for the residents.

Chaplain, Father Stephen Beale, commented: "There was a friendly, welcoming, calm atmosphere throughout the day. The feedback from staff, families and friends has been what an amazing day it was. From the parents' gratitude and the joyous feeling, we know the young people loved being in Cardinal Heenan House and their interaction with residents was amazing.

"Thanks go to Christine Edge, activities co-ordinator, all our staff, residents, families and volunteers.

"And the final word has to go to the young people who have given some feedback. Some had such a strong experience that they would like to return to Cardinal Heenan House. They have seen how difficult it can be to relate to people living with dementia, and have also seen what a big difference a smile or a listening ear can make."

Postal and proxy vote deadline alert for county council elections

VOTERS in West Lancashire wishing to apply for a postal or proxy vote in the forthcoming Lancashire County Council elections are being urged to make sure they get their applications in before the deadline.

Residents throughout the borough will go to the polls on Thursday, May 4 for the county council elections.

If you can't get to your polling station on the day you can still cast your vote by postal vote. Alternatively you can apply for a proxy vote where a nominated person can vote on your behalf at the polling station.

You can check whether you are registered to vote by calling the Elections Office on 01695 585014. Alternatively you can fill in an online registration by visiting www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or www.westlancs.gov.uk/registerto-vote.

If you do not have access to the Internet ask the Elections Office for a paper registration form to be sent to you. The closing date to register to vote at the May elections is Thursday, April 13.

To apply for a postal or proxy vote form call the Elections Office on the above number, email elections.office@westlancs.gov or download an application from www.westlancs.gov.ukhowtovote.

Alternatively you can call in to West Lancs Council offices at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk.

Completed application forms for a postal vote must reach the council by 5pm on Tuesday, April 18, and completed application forms for a proxy vote must arrive by 5pm on Tuesday, April 25.

Applications to vote by emergency proxy at these elections can be applied for on grounds of physical incapacity, where that physical incapacity occurred after 5pm on Tuesday, April 25; or for work/service reasons, and must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF by 5pm on Thursday, May 4.

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Dog owner who failed to have pet tagged in public ordered to pay more than £1,300

A SKELMERSDALE dog owner has been ordered to pay more than £1,300 for failing to ensure his pet was microchipped and wearing an identity tag in a public place.

New legislation came into force in April last year which made it compulsory for dogs in England to be microchipped and for owners' details to be kept up to date on the chip. Owners who fail to comply with the regulations can be fined up to £500.

Wigan Magistrates Court heard how Daniel Bradley's mastiff was collected by West Lancs Council contractors while straying in Old Skelmersdale in September 2016 after a complaint was made by a member of the public.

The contractor found there was no microchip when the dog was scanned. They also saw the mastiff was not wearing an identity tag with the owner's name and address, which all dogs must have by law while out in public places.

After Mr Bradley, of Woodrow, Skelmersdale, collected his pet, the council served him with a notice giving him 21 days to get his dog chipped and provide proof to the council he had done this. He did not comply with the notice leading the council to take legal action against him.

Mr Bradley did not attend court and was found guilty in his absence. He was fined £660 for the dog not wearing a collar and tag, £220 for the dog not being microchipped, and was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £66 and costs of £382.37.

In total, his failure to comply with laws regarding his dog cost him £1,328.37.

This is the latest prosecution the council has carried out since the legislation in microchipping came into force.

The council aims to take firm action against all dog owners who fail to comply with dog-related laws.

Dave Tilleray, who heads up the borough's environmental health team, said: "This prosecution by the council shows its commitment to promoting responsible dog ownership and welfare within the borough. Dog owners must take note that it is a legal requirement for dogs in England to be microchipped.

"They must also, by law, wear an identity tag with the owner's name and address when in a public place."

Microchipping is a failsafe way to ensure if your pet is lost it can be re-united with you. Many vets and pet shops provide this at a small charge.

Further information on responsible dog ownership can be found by visiting www.westlancs.gov.uk/dogs.

Nye Bevan Pool to host Swimathon

THE Nye Bevan Pool in Skelmersdale is to host this year's Swimathon 2017 in the town.

Swimathon, the world's biggest annual fundraising swim is back for 2017 and swimmers across the country are being encouraged to jump in one of more than 600 participating pools to raise vital funds for Marie Curie, the UK's leading charity for people living with a terminal illness and their families.

The event, which this year marks its 30th anniversary, will take place across the weekend of Friday, April 7 to Sunday, April 9.

Launched in 1986 as a pilot programme for swimmers in London only, it became a national event in 1988 since when nearly 700,000 participants have taken part and raised £46 million for 36 different charities.

Swimmers can challenge themselves to tackle 5k, 2.5k or 1.5k individually or either 5k or 1.5k as members of a team in aid of Marie Curie.

And local Marie Curie community fundraiser, Sophie Yates is encouraging people in Skelmersdale to put on their swimsuits and head down to their local pool to take part in a Swimathon Challenge.

Swimathon is to be hosted at Skelmersdale's Nye Bevan Pool this year

She said: "We're looking for swimmers to help make this the biggest and best Swimathon yet. In 2015, 22,600 swimmers took part and helped raise a brilliant £1.9 million for Marie Curie - a fantastic achievement but one we're hoping to beat this year."

Countdown to great Up Holland Bake-Off...

IF you're a dab hand with the fairy cakes, the cream of the crop when it comes to fruit loaves or a whiz at sandwich cakes, go along and join in the fun at a grand annual charity evening to be held at St Thomas The Martyr Church parish rooms in School Lane on Friday, March 31.

Organised by Kath, Edith and Ann, the Up Holland Bake-Off event starts at 7pm with veg, cake and fancy goods stalls, prizes for the Best In Show and performances from The Phoenix Singers. For more information contact Kath on 01695 721038.

Medals for Men-Aces triallists

SIX team members from the Skem Men-Aces disability football team who took part in trials for Team GB have been awarded medals.

One of the six, Stephen Rimmer, was successful and has been chosen for the 15-man squad which flies out to Geneva in June.

Meanwhile the other five triallists and three other members of the Men-Aces will take part in a tournament in Belfast in June which will see more than 200 teams competing.

Mim Eaton, a coach at the Men-Aces, said: "This is a fantastic experience and a great opportunity for the lads to meet new people and to do a bit of travelling.

"June is going to be a busy month for the club with massive things happening including games against Glasgow, Arsenal and Northampton.

"All the players love travelling up and down the country. For most of them it's the only time they get to go out and we often need to explain where we are.

"One lad just stares out the window, and when asked if he's ok, he replies" 'Yes, I just love the hills, sky, sheep even the walls!'

"The lads have also formed friendships up and down the country with other players they regularly get to meet through tournaments and matches."

Stephen Rimmer (back row centre) and fellow Men-Aces triallists

It was from these trips that Mim and husband Carl, the Men-Aces manager, identified that the majority of the players had never been on holiday.

That in turn prompted them to take part in the Greater Manchester Marathon in April to raise money to take the whole squad for an adventure weekend in August.

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Public feedback invited on health commissioners' clinical policy review

THE NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group is working in partnership with the other seven CCGs in the county to review clinical policies across the region.

Mike Maguire, chief officer at NHS West Lancashire CCG

The eight groups have agreed that there is a need to review their policies in order to ensure a consistent and fair approach; develop a set of principles and policies against which decisions about care and treatment can be made, update current policies in accordance with National Guidelines and best clinical practice (the three-year review date is now due for many of these policies); and develop collaborative policies across Lancashire.

These clinical policies, inherited from Primary Care Trusts, although broadly similar, have offered different approaches and rules. The CCGs recognise that this can lead to confusion and potentially unintended differences in services across the area.

As part of this ongoing process, six draft policies are now available for patient and public engagement and feedback. These are the surgical treatment of carpal tunnel syndrome; tonsillectomy; the surgical release of trigger finger; endoscopic knee procedures; male circumcision and an entirely new draft policy on (diabetic) insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitoring devices.

Residents of West Lancashire are invited to read the draft policy documents and provide their feedback and comments by completing the relevant survey(s). These can be accessed by visiting the NHS West Lancashire CCG website at www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk/.

For the new policy on insulin pumps and glucose monitoring devices the CCG is working with Diabetes UK in order to get their feedback and to arrange opportunities for Type 1 diabetic patients to discuss the policy at group meetings and forums.

Any diabetic patients, or in the case of a child or young person, any parent or carer, who does not have access to the online survey and/or may struggle or not wish to attend any group discussions, can make arrangements to discuss the policy by contacting the communications and engagement team of the commissioning support unit on 01772 214 244 or by emailing haveyoursay@lancashirecsu.nhs.uk.

Mike Maguire, chief officer at NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "The CCG is responsible for commissioning a wide range of clinical services, including secondary (hospital), community and mental health services and for paying for those services, for and on behalf of, the local population. In some areas, this also includes commissioning GP services.

"We need to ensure this is done in an open, fair and transparent manner but in doing so we must consider the limited resources we have.

"A key role for the CCG is to develop clinical policies that help us make decisions about the use of those limited resources.

"I would encourage any resident with an interest in these policies to visit the CCG website and have their say."

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Trio of events in final fundraising 'push' for mayor's causes

MAYOR of West Lancashire, Councillor Liz Savage, is set to round off her year of fundraising with one last 'big push' by hosting three more events across the borough.

During her term of office Cllr. Savage has been working with Mayor's Charity Committee to raise money for four worthy causes - Ormskirk Hospital Neonatal Unit; the Artz Centre, Birch Green; The Civic in Ormskirk; and the Birchwood Centre in Skelmersdale.

First up of the three events is a tea dance to be held at The Civic tomorrow (Thursday, March 30) from 2 to 4pm.

This will be followed by an Easter Bingo at St Anne's Parish Centre, Prescot Road, Ormskirk on Friday, April 7, starting at 7.30pm.

And the final event will be the Mayor's Showcase to be heldat Hurlston Hall Golf Club, Scarisbrick on Friday, April 21. Starting at 7.30pm this will feature a three-course meal and musical entertainment to be provided by the Artz Centre, as well as a disco, auction and raffle.

Councillor Liz Savage

Cllr. Savage said: "The showcase will be a fantastic night to round off an exciting and rewarding year of fundraising for these four very worthy causes. A lot of people have been really supportive and I would hope that many of them can come along to this final event to help celebrate our successful year."

Tickets for the tea dance, priced £5, can be bought from The Civic on 01695 576607 or from Ann England on 01695 585033.

Entry for the Easter Bingo costs £2 including refreshments and tickets can be bought from The Civic; Barn Owl, Moor Street, Ormskirk; Mooney Everett Solicitors in Ormskirk; or by calling Rachel on 07964841218.

Tickets for the Mayor's Showcase, priced £25, are available from MayorsCharity-wlbc@mail.com or from Ann England on 01695 585033.

Charity's Community Chest award

A WEST Lancs-based charity which aims to help adults with learning disabilities to gain employment by giving them work experience has received a helping hand from the council.

Timesavers, set up by a group of parents in 2010, has been awarded a £500 grant from the local authority's Community Chest fund which supports voluntary and community groups in the borough.

The charity provides an office administration service for voluntary sector organisations in West Lancs to give work experience opportunities for people with learning disabilities.

Charity trustee, Edward McCarthy, said: "I am delighted with this funding award. We are currently seeking more work placements for our trainees some of whom have already successfully carried out placements with our support."

If you can offer a placement, call Edward on 07971 299 606.

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Pupils and volunteers join council rangers for spring clean events

COMMUNITY-spirited schoolchildren and other volunteers joined West Lancs Council Rangers to take part in the Great British Spring Clean.

Following the success of the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign in 2016, which saw more that 250,000 people nationwide take part in litter-picking events, the Keep Britain Tidy Group launched the Great British Spring Clean project aiming to inspire 500,000 people to participate in community clean-ups.

West Lancs Council organised events, as well as encouraging and supporting parish councils and residents across the borough to 'do their own thing'.

Pupils and governors from Lathom High School were among 26 volunteers who helped the council rangers with a three-hour spring clean at Tawd Valley Park around the Summer Street area that saw them find enough rubbish to fill 71 bin bags, along with three shopping trollies!

Impressed

And children from Ormskirk Primary School and other volunteers teamed up to help the rangers clean around Station Approach in Ormskirk. They managed to pick up eight bin bags worth of litter and a traffic cone.

They also learned how they were helping the wildlife by removing litter.

Other clean-ups organised by the rangers took place at Coronation Park in Ormskirk, where 20 bags of rubbish were collected, and Chequer Lane Lake where five bags were filled despite the bad weather.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, the council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "I am really impressed with the amount of effort volunteers and the rangers put into these clean-up events as they have helped to clear up a lot of rubbish.

"I would also appeal to the general public to take their litter home and to help make sure our parks and countryside sites are clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy."

Pupils from Lathom High and other representatives of the school, including governors, Councillor Terry Devine and Councillor Claire Cooper, with some of the rubbish they collected

Plan to get more people walking and cycling

Chance to have your say on county council's draft strategy

RESIDENTS of West Lancashire are being urged to share their views on plans to encourage more people to walk and cycle on everyday and leisure journeys.

Lancashire County Council and partners are developing a draft Cycling and Walking Strategy which will shape local spending priorities aimed at developing walking and cycling over the next 10 years and building on the range of high-quality routes which already offer access to the county's towns, cities and rural landscape.

The ambitious plan aims to double the number of people cycling by 2026, and increase walking by 10% over the same period, with a focus on encouraging more primary-aged children to walk to school.

Benefits

It is aimed to tackle worsening levels of physical inactivity, with some areas in the county falling significantly below the national average.

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Lancashire County Council's director for public health and wellbeing, said: "Making it easier for people to walk and cycle brings many benefits, from improving people's health and wellbeing, reducing road congestion and improving local air quality, to providing access to job opportunities and supporting economic growth.

"There will be many opportunities to improve the routes, facilities and support for people to travel actively and safely, whatever the reason for their journey, and this strategy will underpin our approach.

"We're keen to hear what people think, and listen to any new ideas and I'd encourage people to have their say."

The consultation on the strategy runs until Friday, April 21. To see the strategy and offer your feedback, visit lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

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Edge Hill shortlisted for employability award

Report by **Henry James**

EDGE Hill has been shortlisted for a new award which recognises commitment to ensuring students are best equipped for the transition to employment.

The Ormskirk university is in the running for the 'Best University Employability Strategy' at the TARGETjobs National Graduate Recruitment Awards 2017.

Winners at what is the largest early careers recruitment awards in Europe will be announced at a ceremony at London's Grosvenor House hotel tomorrow (Thursday, March 30) after organisers have counted nearly 100,000 individual votes from undergraduates, apprentices and school-leavers.

This new award celebrates the achievements being made by higher education institutions to ensure that their undergraduates achieve their potential when searching and applying for graduate roles and moving into employment.

Jacqui Howe, head of careers at Edge Hill, said: "I am delighted that the university has been shortlisted for this prestigious award, it is incredibly important recognition of the work the careers team, departmental colleagues and all at Edge Hill do to ensure our graduates achieve success in their careers."

Edge Hill University

Mark Allanson, pro vice-chancellor for external relations, added: "A key part of the Edge Hill student experience is learning what employability attributes and skills are, getting to practice with employers and through the curriculum then reflecting on what they learn so they are able to present themselves in the most compelling way to start a career when they graduate.

Proud

"But more, these remain with them as they change roles, take on new challenges and gain promotion throughout their career. It's our alumni that tell us this and we're proud that they come back to help the students that follow them."

Edge Hill is one of the top public universities in the country for graduate employment, with 95% of graduates in work or further study, according to the 2015 Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey.

University officials say enhancing student employability is central to its strategy with the majority of degree programmes leading to professional qualification, accreditation or endorsement in addition to an academic award.

Placements, work experience and study abroad are widely available in all faculties, and the university's links with employers mean that students have many opportunities to enhance their employability while they study.

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Chance to unleash your inner Robin Hood!

BURSCOUGH Archers will be holding their annual 'Have-a-Go day' at their range on Easter Saturday, April 15 from noon to 3.30pm.

This is your chance to try your hand at archery for free and unleash your inner Robin Hood!

Equipment will be supplied, Archery GB coaches will be on hand to help and advise and all are welcome to go along and have a go at this sport which can be enjoyed by anyone from 10 to 90!

The archery range is located at Asmall House Livery Stables, Asmall Lane, Ormskirk, immediately adjacent to the Asmall House Care Home.

Parkrun celebrates third anniversary with record turnout

THE Ormskirk parkrun celebrated its third birthday, and the arrival of spring on Saturday (March 25) by shattering its attendance record.

The previous record of 301 runners, only set in February was surpassed by a new total of exactly 400 runners out in the warming spring sunshine.

The usual 5km timed run around the grounds of Edge Hill University was followed by the annual awards ceremony for runners in various categories.

Run director for the day, Darren McMahon, commented: "It was great to see so many turn up. As runners flocked in before the start we realised it was going to be a special day but had not anticipated reaching the 400 mark.

"The huge attendance really is a sign that parkrun is for everyone - all shapes, sizes and speeds are welcome here, including walkers, buggy-pushers and wheelchair-users, and we very much welcome visually impaired runners, with whom we can match our trained guide runners."

Dawn Corlett and mother and daughter team Karen and Anna Hulme (pictured) have been regularly running at Ormskirk parkrun since it started in 2014, and have now completed more than 400 parkruns between them.

Karen said: "We really like coming along to Ormskirk parkrun on Saturday mornings. It is a wonderful community event and it is encouraging to see that participation is increasing all the time. It is also a great way to meet new people.

"We really enjoyed the third birthday celebrations. It was a beautiful spring morning, the sun was shining and there was lots of cake too!"

Parkrun regulars Dawn, Karen and Anna

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Residents' concerns increasing over proposed Lathom development

ADDITIONAL focus has been given in recent weeks to the proposed development of housing land off Firswood Road, Lathom.

As a group representing local residents, we are very concerned that the council will ignore large parts of the Development Brief for the site in its eagerness to see development begin. Such an approach will disadvantage residents, both of existing houses and the newly-built homes in the immediate area and the implications could spread to other developments in West Lancashire.

Everything was 'on track' when the Director of Planning (Mr Harrison) wrote to the developers in November 2015, setting out the council's requirements. This confirmed the points made at a pre-planning application meeting a few weeks earlier and contained in the adopted Development Brief of August 2014.

A further meeting took place only a few months later, in April 2016, but the (more junior) officers present neither took minutes nor wrote to confirm the council's much-changed position, as recorded by the applicants' agents.

All we know is that the developers have quoted these notes in their application documents. We asked the two officers to comment about these notes but their only response was that they could not be expected to remember what had been said at the meeting, six months later. This was in relation to a major reversal of approach compared with the one described by their own boss only a few months earlier!

Over nearly four months we have tried, without any success, to arrange a meeting with the most senior officers at the council and correspondence with them has met mostly with bland comments.

Now we have found that important documents have not been entered on the council's website. These website entries were supposed to replace the old paper case files, to which the public had full access. Now it seems that the planning officers are being allowed to omit items from public view at their discretion.

Nowadays the planning scales are loaded in favour of applicants. Officers say that they do not make major decisions but they make recommendations which, if rejected by the planning committee, can be taken to appeal, where the adjudicator (a Government Inspector) will take into account those recommendation and any comments made at pre-application meetings

Roger Clayton, secretary,
South Lathom Residents' Association

Speeding 'rat run' lorries are a danger to our children

IT'S time we stopped heavily-laden lorries travelling to Kew in Southport from using Long Lane, Aughton as a rat run.

I am surprised that nobody is interested in preventing an accident along this road.

I take my grandchildren to Christ Church School and every morning very large lorries, fully-laden, come hurtling past. In fact, this morning one ran onto the pavement and forced me and my grandchildren to stand back.

I have tried to phone the Highways Department and they gave me the direct line to the Traffic Safety Department. I have phoned on many occasions and no one answers.

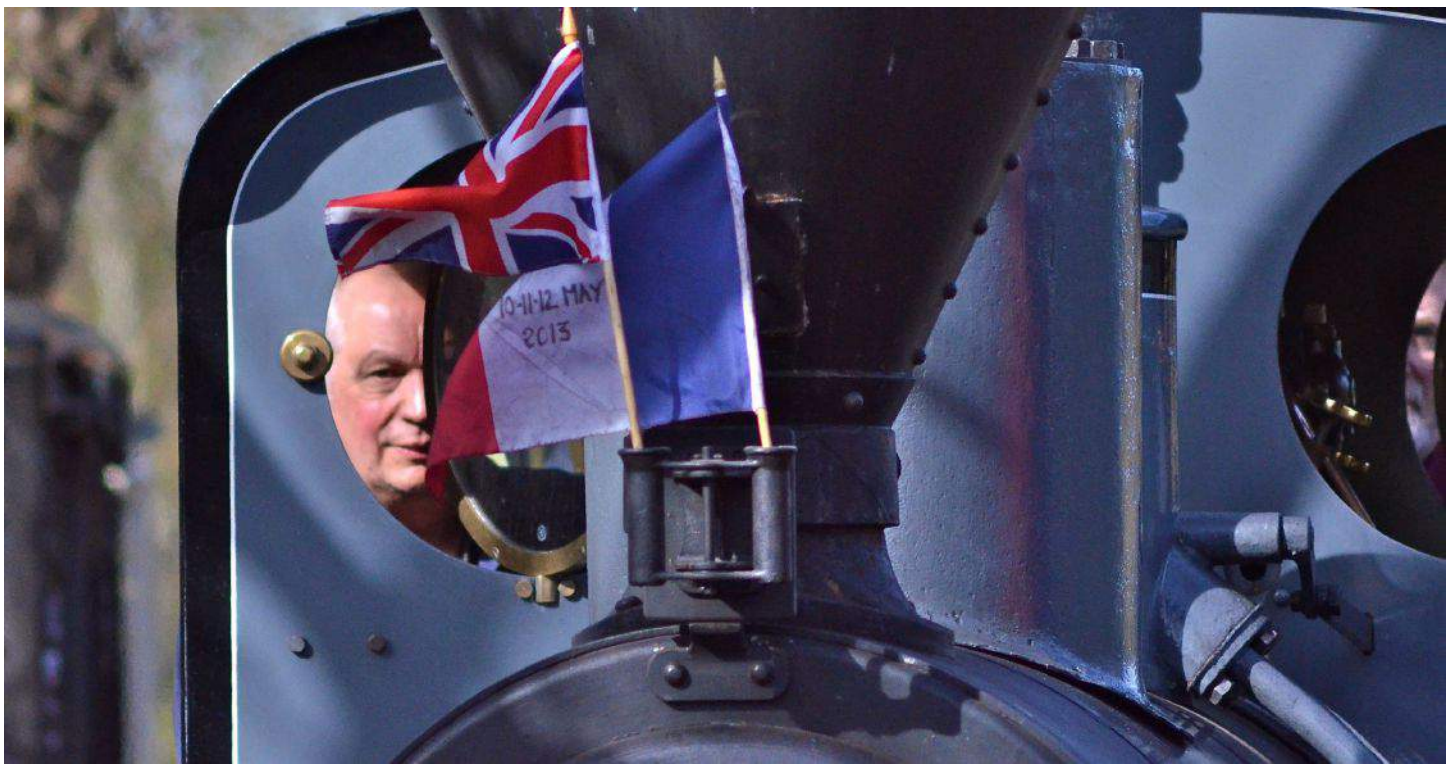
Long Lane has a 20mph speed limit in parts and is not suitable for speeding, heavy-laden lorries. It is easy to stop them by putting a weight restriction on the road, these are 20 ton-plus lorries!

The lorries should then use the motorway past Maghull and feed on to the Southport dual carriageway system, which is where they should be.

Does anybody care about our children? Come on traffic safety officers and police, do something!

Tony Jennings,
Woodland Avenue, Scarisbrick

PICTURE of the week



Engine driver Alan on board 'Joffre', one of the steam locomotives running last Sunday to mark the start of a year of events celebrating the 50th anniversary of West Lancashire Light Railway in Hesketh Bank. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Hospital staff were excellent

MAY I, through your paper, commend the excellent attention I have received from all the staff at Ormskirk Hospital, particularly Ward G.

The surgical team, nurses and physiotheraphy staff have all been great throughout my knee replacement operation.

The NHS receives its share of bad Press and it is my pleasure to report 100 per cent satisfaction. A big thank-you to all concerned.

John Brown, Easkdale Avenue, Aughton

Free advice to help conquer fear of dogs

MANY of us either own a dog or will meet one when out and about, but readers might be surprised to know that research from Dogs Trust has shown that one in three children is afraid of dogs.

We are offering free advice to help families, and anyone who regularly comes into contact with dogs, improve their understanding of man's best friend. This includes tips on how to approach a dog safely and how to respond when a dog approaches you, to pointers for parents who have a child who is scared of dogs.

Thanks to the People's Postcode Lottery, Dogs Trust is also running free workshops in schools to help children to feel more confident around dogs. Visit www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk for more information.

Adrian Burder, Dogs Trust CEO

Drop us a line...

■ IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Happy school days recalled

I WANTED to share my fond memories of Aughton St Michael's Church of England Primary School after I stumbled across this school photograph *(right)* from 1977 in the attic.

I started at the school in Holt Green prior to its move and my family have lived in Aughton since the 1700s and still do.

I enjoyed the school and have fond memories, especially of the sports day potato sack race when farmers provided the hessian sacks.

I am on the back row, fourth from left as you look at the photograph.

James Woods, Aughton,
by email

Hospital staff put on the style for hospice

Fourth fashion show raises £4,500

STAFF at a West Lancashire Hospital swapped the wards for the catwalk for a night to raise a four-figure sum for a worthy cause.

Renacres Hospital in Halsall staged its fourth charity fashion show, entitled Fashion for Compassion, at Hurlston Hall in Scarisbrick, in aid of Queenscourt Hospice.

More than 170 ladies from across Ormskirk and surrounding areas attended the fashionista sell-out event and gave generously to raise a grand total of £4,500.

Guests were welcomed by The Northern String Quartet and the event featured two spring/summer designer fashion shows showcasing this year's 'must-have' designer wardrobe from Busy Body's Lingerie Specialists, Birkdale Village and MUSE, Southport.

Generous donations were made throughout the evening and a luxury raffle also contributed to the final amount raised.

As well as guests, local businesses also dug deep and donated items and offers for each goodie bag, plus raffle prizes to raise funds for the hospice which provides support and care for patients from throughout West Lancashire, Southport and Formby.

Organisers and guests at the fashion show

Representatives from Renacres Hospital were also blown away by a random act of kindness on the night when an accountant from B&M Stores in Southport announced that B&M would also donate £500 to the total amount raised.

Wendy Williams, GP Liaison Officer at Renacres Hospital who organised the event, said: "On behalf of Renacres Hospital I would just like to thank all those who made the evening a great success, because of you we have managed to raise a whopping £4,500 for our charity of the year.

"A sincere thank-you to all local businesses who gave up their time, services and donations.

Carolyn Gorman, fundraising manager at Queenscourt Hospice, added: "This was an amazing night out and the team at Renacres Hospital should be really proud that all their hard work and enthusiasm has ensured the success of this wonderful event.

"Thanks should also go to Busy Body's and Muse who organised the fashion shows, and all the other local people and businesses who got involved without whom this event would just not have been possible.

"The total amount raised is amazing and it's thanks to the support of dedicated people like Wendy and the team at Renacres that Queenscourt Hospice can continue to provide care to local people completely free of charge at a time that they most need it."

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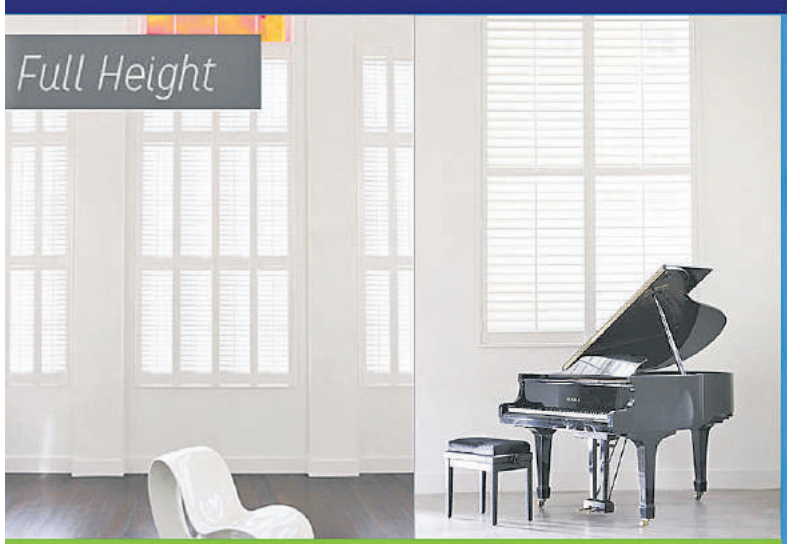

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Council's new Street Scene chief looking forward to challenge

WEST Lancs Council's new director of Street Scene Services is "looking forward to the challenge" of her new role.

Heidi McDougall joins the authority from Derbyshire Dales District Council, where she was head of environmental services with a wide range of responsibilities including refuse collection, waste management and street cleansing, and led the team to deliver a range of fundamental improvements.

With 20 years' experience in local government, Heidi started her career as an environmental health officer at Tameside Council. She later worked at Rossendale Council then Salford Council where, as a neighbourhood manager, she worked closely with local communities to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour, initiating environmental projects and the transfer of assets for communities to manage.

In her new role with West Lancs Heidi will have responsibility for street cleansing, grounds maintenance, refuse and recyclables collections, the council's transport fleet and commercial and bulky waste collections.

She said: "I enjoy working with people and am looking forward to the challenges ahead.

New director of Street Scene Services at West Lancs Council, Heidi McDougall, is welcomed by Councillor Kevin Wilkie

"A key priority for the council is to be ambitious for our environment by enhancing its cleanliness.

"I am looking forward to bringing my wealth of experience to West Lancashire, working with councillors, staff and the community to make sure we make the best use of our resources in Street Scene Services and continue to provide value for money.

"Like most authorities West Lancashire Borough Council is having to work hard to balance the budget and I am focussed on making all our services the best they can possibly be for residents within the resources available."

Councillor Kevin Wilkie, cabinet member for Street Scene, said: "Heidi brings a lot of skills and experience to the role of director and is an excellent recruit for the council. I am very much looking forward to working with her."

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Club boost for Alfie's world record bid

Report by **Tom Martin**

Alfie, with brother Cameron and dad Mark, receiving a cheque for £200 from Bootle FC board members Bobby Capstick and Ken Head

BURSCOUGH youngster Alfie Lund, who suffers from a rare illness, was given a special gift to boost his hopes of breaking a world record.

The nine-year-old, who has a rare genetic neurodevelopmental disorder called MECP2 duplication syndrome, was invited to Bootle FC on Saturday, March 25 to be a mascot for the team.

And as well as leading out the Bucks for their league clash with Runcorn Linnets, he was also given £200 by the club and a further £400 raised by supporters.

The money will go to the Alfie Lund Fund, set up by the youngster's family to buy him the specialist medical equipment he needs.

Alfie is currently trying to create a new Guinness World Record for the longest chain of football-related memorabilia, and he was given a Liverpool FC shirt signed by former player Dirk Kuyt to add to his growing collection!

He wants to be the first person to set the world record, with the hope of submitting it in May and then the memorabilia will be sold off for charity.

Alfie's dad, Mark, said: "We were privileged to have Alfie and his brother Dominic as mascots for Bootle FC. It was also an amazing gesture giving Alfie a kit and tracksuit for the occasion.

"Thanks to Bootle for their help and huge respect to all supporters."

A spokesperson for Bootle FC, said: "It was quite a memorable day for all concerned. There were more than 400 people there on Saturday to see the presentation and all of the lads who were mascots, including Alfie, were so excited!"

MECP2 duplication syndrome is a condition that occurs almost exclusively in males and is characterised by moderate to severe intellectual disability.

Most people with this condition also have weak muscle tone in infancy, feeding difficulties, poor or absent speech, or muscle stiffness.

To find out more about the Alfie Lund Fund visit website www.thealfielundfund.co.uk/

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Residents' views sought on homelessness strategy

RESIDENTS are being invited to give their views on a document that will guide how West Lancs Council helps some of the most vulnerable people in the area.

The council has carried out a review of homelessness in the borough with the findings used to create a new draft Homelessness Strategy for 2017-2022.

Now the authority wants residents and providers of local homelessness services to give their views as part of the development of the new strategy.

In the review it was found that despite homelessness increasing nationally, in West Lancashire the number has been in decline since 2011.

The use of temporary accommodation is also low compared to national figures, with only 10 households being placed in 2015/16.

Key objectives of the strategy are to enhance the depth and range of housing advice services to meet current and future challenges; enhance the housing offer available to all homeless applicants in the borough; and improve health and wellbeing. An action plan has been devised to meet those objectives.

For more information on the draft strategy visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/yourviews and click in the consultations underway link.

Councillor Kevin Wright, whose portfolio includes responsibility for the strategy, said: "This strategy is a very important document as it helps the council assist some of the most vulnerable people in our community. I would urge people to take part in the consultation to ensure the final strategy reflects the requirements of local people."

Comments can be sent by email to laura.lea@westlancs.gov.uk or by post to Private Sector Housing Team, 61 Westgate, Skelmersdale, WN8 8LP. The closing date for comments is Monday, May 1.

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Careers fair attracts 1,500-plus

TO celebrate National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week, West Lancashire College opened its Skelmersdale Campus to more than 1,500 school pupils and students with the aim of educating and inspiring them on their future careers.

Youngsters from the borough and beyond were given the opportunity to engage in activities with more than 60 employers from a wide range of industries.

The young people could find out about new careers, talk about their future options and view a range of apprenticeships and job vacancies on offer.

Employers from across the North West attended the day which also provided a range of interactive activities for pupils to get involved in.

Companies represented included Hotter Shoes, NSG Pilkingtons, SCA Hygiene, Co-op Bank, Karl Vella, Fairbanks Environmental, Wish FM, Safe & Warm, Stocks Hall, Home Instead, St Richard's RC Primary School, West Lancs Council, Walkers/PepsiCo, Southport & Ormskirk NHS Trust, The Imagery, the Army, the Police, STEM First, Edge Hill University, UcLan, Royal Bank of Scotland and Graylaw Freight.

Universities from across the North West also attended to further raise student and pupils' aspirations.

Denise Williamson, principal of West Lancashire College said: "We were delighted to host the Interactive Careers Fair for the fifth consecutive year. Raising the aspirations of young people and unlocking potential through learning with apprenticeship and vocational education are at the heart of what we do at West Lancashire College.

"The fair was a truly collaborative and inspirational event with the college, schools and employers working together to stage a fabulous extravaganza of career opportunities and hands-on activities.

"To see more than 1,000 young people being both curious and engaged in their potential future careers was so rewarding.

"A big thank-you goes to our learners, local schools and employers who made this event so successful."

Martyn Saint (left) and Darren Houghton from Hotter Shoes chat to students at the Interactive Careers Fair hosted by West Lancashire College.

Unions warn of funds cut impact on local schools

Report by **Henry James**

UNION leaders have warned that schools in West Lancashire will soon begin to feel the impact of an estimated £3 billion shortfall in the government's education budget by 2020.

Officials of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) say the picture is extremely bleak, with 98 per cent of schools set to lose funding, at a time when costs are rising and pupil numbers are growing.

At the end of last year the Champion reported on how high schools in West Lancashire could lose out on hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of funding as a result of new government proposals, according to the National Union of Teachers (NUT).

Among those forecast to be the hardest hit were Ormskirk School and Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College in Skelmersdale.

Projected figures show that Lancashire is likely to lose an average of £440 per pupil, a total of more than £68 million for the county as a whole and the equivalent of more than 1,800 average teacher salaries.

And union bosses warn that the impact on learning will be significant with class sizes in primary schools rising and some GCSE and A Level subjects cut from the curriculum entirely as school budgets are pushed beyond breaking point.

The funding shortfall is a result of drastically increased costs and levies on schools with no additional money from the government.

The NAHT point out that Lancashire will also be hit by the new national formula the government has introduced to calculate funding levels for schools in England.

Union leaders believe a fairer distribution of funding is the right thing to aim for, but claim that the introduction of the new formula at a time of real crisis in overall education funding means that schools in Lancashire stand to lose significant amounts of money, putting teaching and school improvement at risk.

Russell Hobby, general secretary of the NAHT, said: "School budgets are being pushed beyond breaking point. The government's £3 billion real terms cut to education funding must be reversed or we will see education and care suffer. Already heads are being forced to cut staff, cut the curriculum and cut specialist support

"A new funding formula is the right thing to do, but it cannot be truly fair unless there is enough money to go round in the first place."

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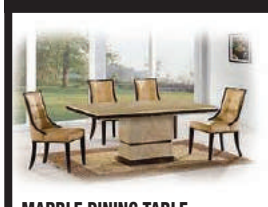

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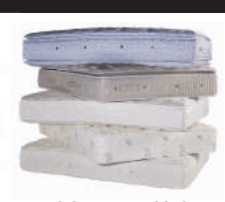

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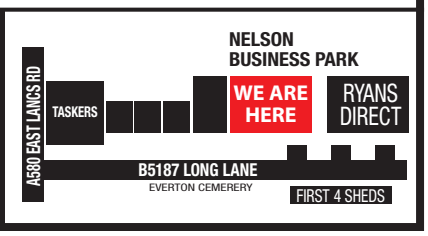

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Sorry for the 'sombre' tone of this week's offering but I feel strongly about the Union

NICOLA Sturgeon and Martin McGuinness are two people who have behaved in totally different ways.

Nicola Sturgeon is a quite likeable, forthright though (in my opinion) misguided person.

Martin McGuinness, not that long ago a leader of a band of terrorists bringing misery to thousands of innocent families in the name of 'freedom', now seems to have gained almost sainthood for his undoubted efforts in bringing peace in Northern Ireland.

What is upsetting me is that in both these cases, nobody seems to be interested in the 'why?' - just the end result.

It seems to me that Ms Sturgeon has succumbed to the siren call of power.

She is pursuing a narrow wrecking agenda of her own.

She, and her fellow SNP MPs in the UK Parliament, seem set on destroying the Union in the name of 'her'; people, forgetting that she is not speaking for all Scotland.

And what of former terrorist Martin McGuinness?

It's all very well citing his statesmanlike humanitarian efforts in promoting the peace process in his troubled land.

But although I confess I may be wrong, it seems to me that his quite sudden 'road to Damascus' conversion smells more like the trade-unionist who finds himself promoted to the company board. I've seen so many people at different levels of society who have tasted the undoubted benefits of joining the 'us' rather than 'them.'

Suddenly the cloth cap or terrorist mask is consigned to the dustbin, in favour of a dinner jacket and chauffeured limousine.

And I don't altogether blame them.

If I were to be offered the trappings of high office at the expense of some long-held belief, the temptation must be strong indeed.

But that does not mean that I can necessarily believe either of these two political leopards can really have changed their spots.

Again, these two are almost diametrically different.

Nicola Sturgeon has dropped her veil of simply wanting the best for Scotland - and become a power-hungry danger not only to her fellow Scots, but to all of us.

While I find it difficult to believe that Martin McGuinness ever regretted his terrorist Provisional IRA days.

Yes, he changed tack because he realised that what he wanted for 'his' people could only be achieved round the table rather than with a gun - and we must all be grateful for that.

But I reckon that his 'Chuckle Brothers' performances with the late Reverend Ian Paisley showed more of his delight in becoming an accepted political big nob, meeting the Queen, appearing on TV debates, attending official dinners, than any regret at the part his now discarded persona played only a few years earlier.

It sickens me to hear our leaders pontificating about his good deeds, while slipping in a mention of 'of course I regret his former role in the IRA'.

I join in the condolences to the bereaved relatives of Mr McGuinness, and I respect the right of Scottish people to express their opinions - but they have given their view and voted only recently to remain a part of the United Kingdom.

I'm sorry to have written such a sombre 'Dog' this week, but I feel so strongly about the future of the union of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and the danger of air-brushing history to suit the pressures of the moment.

Normal service will, I hope, be resumed next week.

Easter Family Fun

Create a Bunny Box:
Tuesday 4th April

Fancy Fabric Easter Eggs:
Friday 7th April

Make a Spring Box & Flowers:
Tuesday 11th April

Design your Super Hero Bunny Mask:
Thursday 13th April

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Cost: £2 per child, adults & under 2yrs free.

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WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Appointment of new police chief confirmed

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Panel has confirmed the appointment of Andy Rhodes as the county's next Chief Constable.

Made up of councillors from across Lancashire and co-opted independent members, the panel met this month to consider the process undertaken by the police and crime commissioner in deciding to appoint Mr Rhodes who is currently Deputy Chief Constable of the force.

They also had the chance to question the Chief Constable elect about the role and the future of Lancashire Police under his leadership.

He described the job as "my dream role" and his appointment as the greatest achievement of his career.

Mr Rhodes said his role with the National Police Chiefs Council and peer reviewing other forces meant his experience stretched beyond Lancashire.

The move also makes way for the appointment of a new Deputy Chief Constable and the role has been advertised nationally.

An additional role of Assistant Chief Constable is also being advertised as ACC Mark Bates has announced he is also to retire this summer.

Mr Rhodes will take over from retiring Chief Constable Steve Finnigan who is the longest serving chief in the country.

Lancashire's Police Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, said he was delighted with the appointment and was looking forward to working with the new chief to deliver the new Police and Crime Plan.

Bishop officiates at Confirmation Service

THE Bishop of Blackburn, the Right Reverend Julian Henderson, confirmed 20 young people at an inspired Confirmation Service at Christ Church, Parbold.

Candidates for Confirmation came from Christ Church; All Saints Church, Appley Bridge; and St Anne's Church, Shevington.

The church was filled with family and friends of the confirmees, and the bishop was assisted by Christ Church and All Saints parish priest, Reverend Sue Timmins, St Anne's, Shevington parish priest, Reverend Philip Dennison, and All Saints reader, Diane Green.

The service was followed by refreshments, as the confirmees and their families celebrated with church officials.

Some of the confirmees and the clergy

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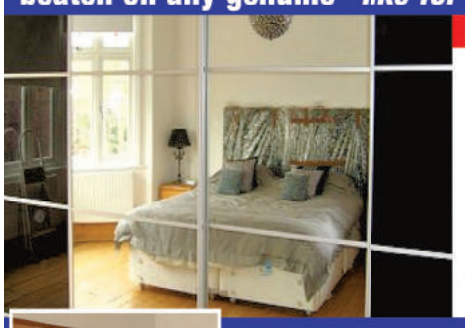

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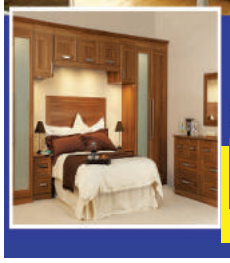

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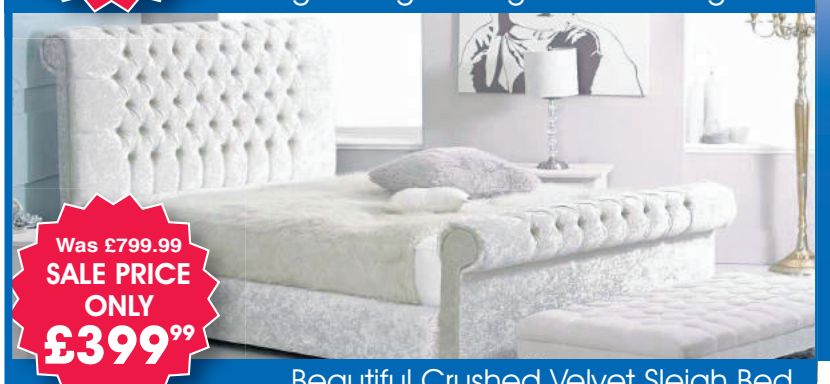

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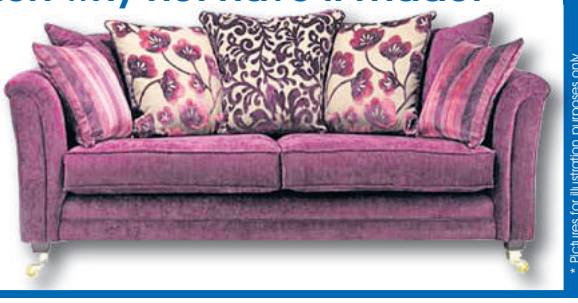

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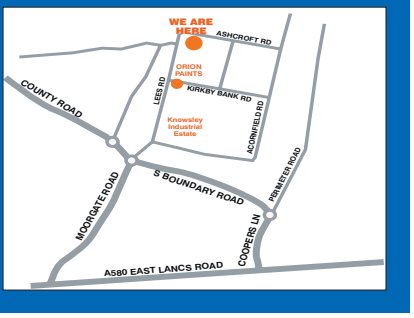

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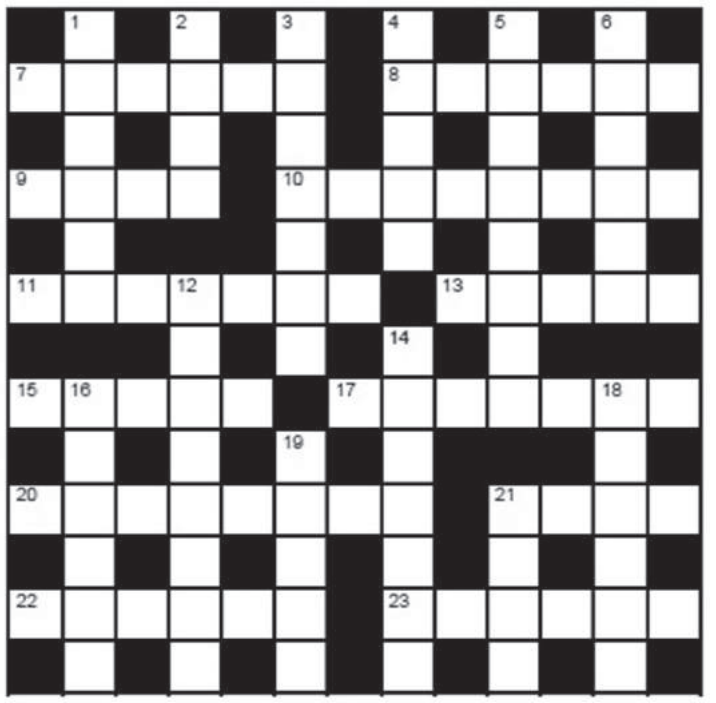

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Sierra. 8 Coeval. 9 Zinc. 10 Thorough. 11 Scented. 13 Adorn. 15 Harpy. 16 Cushion. 18 Gasoline. 19 Ugli. 21 Desist. 22 On hold.

Down: 1 Kiwi. 2 Arachnophobia. 3 Canteen. 4 Scoop. 5 Second thought. 6 Kangaroo. 12 Charades. 14 Jukebox. 17 Kitty. 20 Lilt.

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ACROSS

7. To co-operate on a matter of mutual concern (6)
8. Having merit (6)
9. Sharpen (4)
10. Popular name for sports shoes often used for casual wear (8)
11. Sequin (7)
13. Japanese dish of cold, cooked rice typically topped with raw fish (5)
15. Malice (5)
17. Product of a thousand and a thousand (7)
20. Likely to happen (8)
21. Manner or fashion (4)
22. Refuse to acknowledge a connection with (6)
23. To claim someone has done something wrong, usually without proof (6)

DOWN

1. An unlucky accident (6)
2. Formed by bending your fingers tightly into your palm usually to strike a blow (4)
3. Non-Jewish person (7)
4. Make a minor adjustment (5)
5. Calm, peaceful (8)
6. Building used for public Christian worship (6)
12. Small laptop computer (8)
14. Willing to respect or accept behaviour or opinions different from one's own (7)
16. Authorise or allow (6)
18. Later part of life (3, 3)
19. Heavy blackish or very dark brown timber from a mainly tropical tree (5)
21. Opaque, white fluid secreted by female mammals (4)

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Ghost giveaway!

We've five pairs of tickets to win for spectacular new stage production coming to the Empire, Liverpool

GHOST the musical is coming to the Empire Theatre, Liverpool, and the Champion has five pairs of tickets to give away to readers.

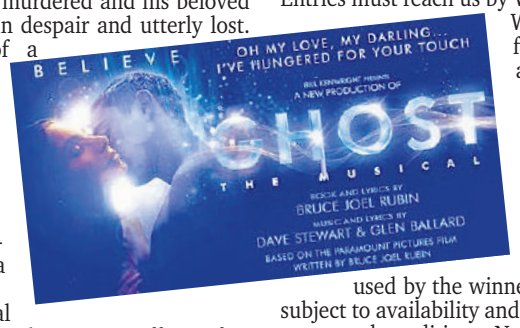
This brand-new production from Bill Kenwright tells the timeless story of love, despair and hope.

Taking its inspiration from the classic movie, this innovative re-imagining will feature an expanded book, new music and original staging.

The double Academy Award-winning movie was a huge success story, both critically and at the box office, where it was the highest grossing film in the year of its release. It starred the late Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore, Tony Goldwyn and Whoopi Goldberg and was directed by Jerry Zucker. The film's most iconic and moving scene was famously performed to the Righteous Brothers' Unchained Melody, which also features in the musical version.

Ghost won numerous awards and nominations, including being nominated for an Academy Award for Best Film.

Walking back to their apartment one night a tragic encounter sees Sam murdered and his beloved girlfriend Molly alone, in despair and utterly lost. But with the help of a phoney storefront psychic, Sam, trapped between this world and the next, tries to communicate with Molly in the hope of saving her from grave danger.



Don't miss this spectacular new production of a wonderful musical.

To celebrate the arrival of Ghost in Liverpool, the Champion is offering five pairs of tickets for the performance on Monday, April 10. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer the following question:

Q: Who played Sam in the movie, Ghost?

Send your answer on a postcard to: Ghost, The Champion, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 0QA. Entries must reach us by Wednesday, April 5, 2017. Winners will be the first five correct entries drawn at random.

Terms and conditions:

Winners must be able to attend the performance above, as tickets cannot be exchanged for another performance. Tickets are non-transferable and must be used by the winner selected. All tickets are subject to availability and to the Liverpool Empire's terms and conditions. No part of this prize can be exchanged for another performance/date or monetary value. Full T&Cs available on request.

Forces veterans and primary pupils help to mark Commonwealth Day

LOCAL armed forces veterans and pupils from Ormskirk Primary School children helped to raise the Commonwealth Flag at a special ceremony organised by West Lancs Council to mark Commonwealth Day 2017.

The celebrations took place outside the council offices in Derby Street, Ormskirk where a message from the Commonwealth Secretary-General was read out by the council's deputy leader, Councillor Yvonne Gagen.

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage, also addressed the crowd and a specially-written Commonwealth Affirmation was read by veteran Tony Hamer before the raising of the flag.

This was followed by a commemorative act marking the centenary of the First World War World War.

A two-minute silence was held and Cllr. Savage lit three candles as a reminder of the sacrifices made during the past 100 years through conflicts in which the country has been involved and also as a symbol of hope that we will all work towards understanding between peoples.

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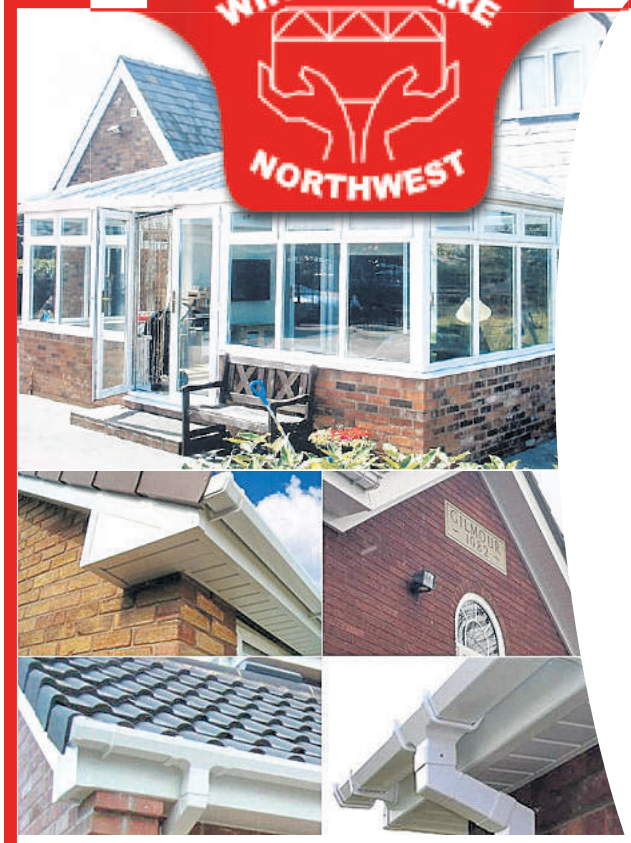

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Age UK Lancashire manager speaks at Breathe Easy group meeting

ANN Oliver, Age UK's community engagement manager for Lancashire, was guest speaker at the latest meeting of the West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy group.

She explained what Age UK Lancashire does and how it differs from Age UK at national level, based in London.

Age UK was formed in 2009 following a merger of Help the Aged and Age Concern and the charity's London base organises major health campaigns and applies for lottery funding.

Age UK Lancashire, meanwhile, is one of 170 local 'federal' Age UK areas operating independently and fundraising in its own right, although it does receive support from the London office.

It offers advice and help, including for those applying for available benefits, branches, such as the one in Moorgate, Ormskirk, also organise activities including Line Dancing, computer classes, keep-fit, tea dances, and painting.

There is also a Dementia Community Link Service, a footcare service and home help service.

Other local Age UK offices are based at Cambridge Walks in Southport and the Ecumenical Centre in Skelmersdale, while a variety of free, helpful leaflets are available on a range of subjects and a free Age UK Life-book, a useful personal organiser, can be ordered.

Ann also explained many of the other services and help Age UK can advise on, including how to ensure your name is on the Priority Services Register, run by the utility companies.

This is for people over the age of 65 or with appropriate disabilities, such as breathing problems. When there is any planned disruption or 'outage' of electricity or gas services, customers on the register are the first to have their services restored.

The utility companies will also move meters and give free gas checks etc., to those on the register.

The service is also particularly helpful to patients on oxygen as disruptions to electricity supply cause major problems.

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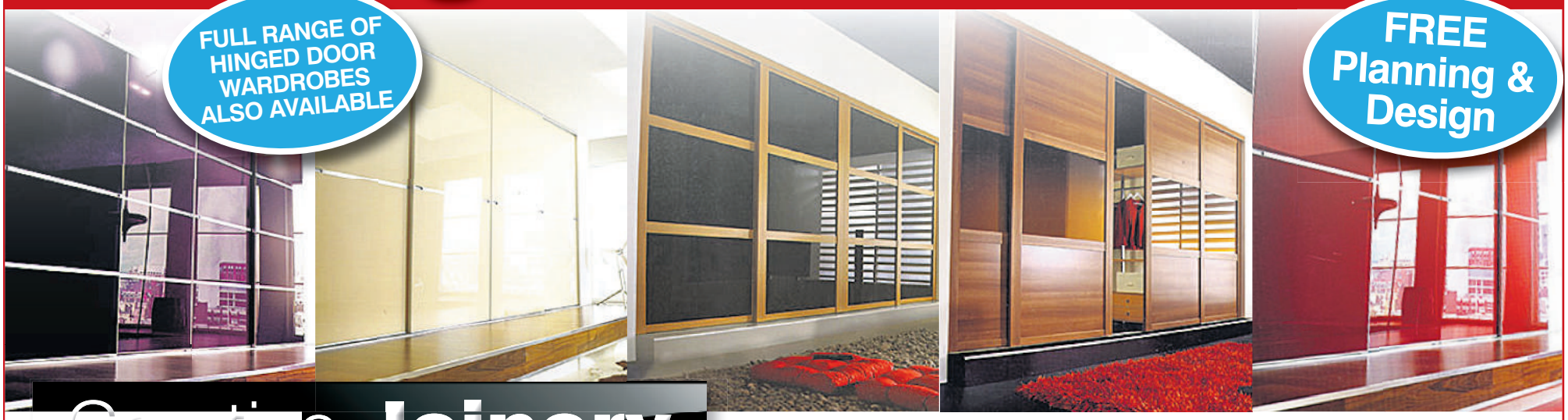

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with Cheese, Mushrooms, Donner Meat, Red Onion or Pepperoni	£5.30	£6.70
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EXTRAS

	Reg	Lge
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Prestigious Illustration Awards Exhibition to visit Chapel Gallery

By Danielle Thompson

THE Chapel Gallery has a packed programme of events in store over the next few weeks.

From Saturday (April 1) to Saturday, May 6 visitors to the venue in St Helens Road, Ormskirk, can enjoy the prestigious international Illustration Awards Exhibition from The Association of Illustrators.

This features work from some of the best illustrators in the UK and the Chapel Gallery is the only venue in the north hosting this touring show.

Meanwhile, back by popular demand, The Reading Room book swap library will be found in the main gallery space.

With plenty of books provided by Waterstones, Ormskirk, people can bring a book and swap it for another, or take a seat and read at the gallery for a while. The opening event takes place on Saturday, April 1.

Creative Easter fun begins on Tuesday, April 4 with create a Bunny Box. Other events in the programme are Fancy Fabric Eggs (Friday, April 7); Spring into Spring Box (Tuesday, April 11); and Super Hero Bunny Masks (Thursday, April 13).

Each workshop is suitable for children aged five and over and will be accompanied by plenty of games and creative activities for all ages. The workshops cost £2 per child per session (adults free) and there are morning and afternoon sessions to choose from.

An image by Levante Szabo was used in the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)'s Film Awards brochure

As a special treat for the holidays the Amazing Cardboard Carnival by Lempen Puppets, will take place on Saturday, April 15 with performances at 11am and 2pm.

This is an extraordinary puppet show, where the characters are created as the story unfolds. Tickets are £4 for individuals and £15 for a family ticket.

For a full programme, further information or to book any of the Creative Easter Fun events or tickets for the 'Amazing Cardboard Carnival', contact the gallery on 01695 571328 or email chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk.

Children can enjoy free Easter-themed activities

CHILDREN can enjoy a number of free Easter-themed events with the Junior Rangers club in West Lancashire.

The activities, organised by the borough council's parks and countryside service, all start at 2pm and are open to youngsters aged between five and 12, although under-eights require adult supervision.

First up on Sunday, April 2 there's a chance to join the Rangers for themed crafts and activities at the Easter Egg Bands event at Coronation Park, Ormskirk. Meeting point is the park's bowling pavilion.

Next is the Junior Rangers Easter Springwatch event at Beacon Country Park, Up Holland, on Tuesday, April 4 when yungsters can enjoy themed crafts and activities and take a closer look at the park's wildlife and learn more about the seasonal changes and challenges facing our native plants and animals. Meeting point is the park visitor centre.

More craft activities take place at the Junior Rangers Easter event at Stanley Coronation Park in Skelmersdale on Monday, April 10 and a similar event takes place at Richmond Park, Burscough, on Wednesday, April 12. Both start from the bowling pavilions.

There is also an Easter Egg Hunt on Tuesday, April 11 at Beacon Country Park, starting from the visitor centre.

Places must be booked in advance by calling 01695 622794 and those attending should wear suitable footwear and clothing for outdoor events.

Residents encouraged to experience great outdoors

THERE'S a chance to enjoy the great outdoors with some great events organised by West Lancs Council's parks and countryside service in April.

The Clieves Hill Circular Walk on Monday, April 3 is a six-mile ramble starting at Coronation Park, Ormskirk and exploring footpaths through the wider local countryside.

The walk is open to all and will be set at a relaxed, manageable pace. Walkers will meet at the bowling green pavilion in Coronation Park, Ormskirk, at 9.50am for a 10am start.

On Sunday, April 16 the council Rangers are hosting a 12-mile guided walk through the countryside of Burscough and Rufford on the Burscough Wetlands Walk.

This walk covers beautiful open countryside with a focus on wildlife-rich woodlands and wetlands, and will be mainly along footpaths through the countryside. Meet at Platts Lane car park, Burscough, at 9.50am for a 10am start.

Meanwhile, volunteers can help the Rangers with the Tawd Valley Park clean-up on Saturday, April 22, starting at 10am. They will be clearing litter and debris from the river and footpaths and making this hidden jewel in the heart of Skelmersdale sparkle a little bit more brightly.

Meet at the lower car park (nearest the river) behind Skelmersdale library at 9.50am for a 10am start. Please be aware that this is a practical countryside event and dress in appropriate clothing and footwear. A pair of decent work gloves is advisable.

Then on Saturday, April 29 people can enjoy a Bee Safari by taking a stroll around Beacon Country Park with experts from Lancashire Wildlife Trust's 'Plan Bee' project. They will talk about local bees, their importance and what we can all do to help them. Meet at the Visitor Centre, Beacon Country Park, Up Holland at 1.50pm for a 2pm start.

Please note under-16s must be accompanied by an adult at all these events. All participants should wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather and ground conditions at each event.

Addams family to spook theatre's audiences

THEY'RE creepy, kooky, spooky and kooky, and, more important, they've definitely settled in Southport.

The Addams Family a musical comedy surrounded by Charles Addams' sweetish ghoulish renderings of Gomez, Morticia, Uncle Fester, Lurch, Pugsley, Grandmamma and, of course, Wednesday.

The show is coming to The Atkinson this April 6 to 8 by the talented award winning company SONG who have won NODA's Best Ensemble award two years in a row.

The story isn't an adaptation of The Addams Family movies or TV shows but an original story. But of course, the depictions of the characters are heavily informed by past screen versions, and the overture kicks off with a snippet of the familiar TV theme.

Daughter Wednesday is all grown up and in love with boyishly passionate Lucas Beineke.

Wednesday is suddenly very anxious to have her bizarre family act "normal" to make a good impression on her boyfriend's uptight father Mal and relentlessly upbeat mother Alice when they are invited for dinner. But the moment Lurch ushers the Beinekes inside the decrepit mansion, tension begins to mount.

Mal who is in the demolition business takes immediate interest in wanting to tear down the house and Alice Lucas's mum spouts out happy poems at random, a nervous habit.

Pugsley, Grandmamma and Fester try hard to be normal, but they could not be more peculiar! Wednesday having worn black for the last 18 years comes down to meet her boyfriend in yellow.

That is just the start and the story reveals so much more keeping audiences amused and gripped throughout.

The cast of The Addams Family

Charles Moss recent winner of the NODA Best Musical director said: "The songs by Andrew Lippa are a grab bag of tango, cabaret and vaudeville-style numbers that are very entertaining and mostly appropriate to the Addams aesthetic.

"We have a 12 piece orchestra to support a variety of very good musical numbers - most very witty, some rather touching."

Vicci Harrocks has choreographed a selection of dances that aim to enhance the show and delight audiences. She commented: "We hope to see families enjoying the much loved family during the Easter holidays."

To buy tickets contact the Box office on 01704 533333.

I couldn't take my eyes off Jersey Boys show

'OH What A Nite' – The Jerseys
Epstein Theatre, Liverpool.

RESPLENDENT in scarlet jackets and black slacks, The Jerseys looked the epitome of early Sixties vocal groups **writes Ron Ellis.**

Dominic Creighton made a great Frankie Valli, reaching the falsetto highs that gave The Four Seasons one of the most distinctive and recognisable sounds around, supplemented by excellent harmony vocals from Max Fox, Shaun Wareing and Jack Wealthall.

A background commentary between numbers documented the history of the group from the early beginnings as The Four Lovers to Frankie Valli's solo career and that alone gave the proceedings an official air. Not just another pub tribute band.

Interesting too that they sang Four Seasons numbers that were actually hits for other groups in England such as The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore, covered by The Walker Brothers, Can't Take My Eyes Off You (Andy Williams) and Beggin (Timebox) and numbers from doo-wop groups and The Beach Boys were also featured.

The four attractive girls known as The Viva Showgirls filled and brightened the stage with well-choreographed dance routines integrated with the vocalists, though how the lads in the group concentrated on their singing as the girls entwined themselves around them baffled me.

The show was compered by Leye D Johns, a drag artiste in all but drag, which I found rather incongruous like putting The Sex Pistols on the same bill as Pavorotti. It turned the event into a variety show rather than a music concert as he picked on members the audience in the style of a pantomime dame and I felt sorry for those people sitting on the front row. **Star Rating 8 out of 10 for The Jerseys**

Whisky tasting to 'dram' up support for charity

WHISKY lovers are being invited to take part in a 'masterclass' tasting session to raise money for a West Lancashire-based children and young people's charity.

Tickets for the event, at Booths in Burscough on Friday (March 31), cost £10 and guests will be introduced to a selection of fantastic whiskies, and talked through flavour profiles and distillery details by a local expert.

The event will raise money for Rainbow House in Mawdesley which helps teach skills to empower people with disabilities to lead a more active and independent life.

Guests will be welcomed with a whisky cocktail and nibbles, followed by a selection of whiskies to taste.

A raffle for a luxury whisky hamper will also be held.

Tickets are available in store, simply ask at the kiosks.

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

Good Friday 14th April

Come and indulge your senses With Chef's Good Friday Fish menu. All for ***Only £9.99***

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Easter Monday 17th April 2017

We are open 12-2.30pm And 5-9pm on Easter Monday

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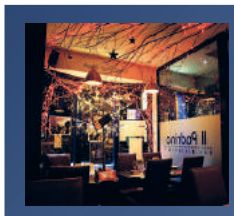
DINING OUT



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THEATRES

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★2 FOR 1 BAR DEALS also available★
• Overlooking North Bay • Lift • Car Park (fee)

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
31* Mar, 7, 21 Apr 5, 12, 19 May 2, 9, 16, 23 Jun	3, 10, 17 Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun
from £79.95	from £129.95

Royal Hotel Scarborough
★Famous hotel with sea views★
• Lift • Indoor Pool • Town Centre

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
7, 21 Apr 5, 12, 19 May 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun	3, 10, 17, 24 Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun
from £99.95	from £179.95

2/4 Nights from £79.95

Pontins

Nr Weston-s-Mare Sand Bay
★Adults only ★Half board breaks★
• Indoor pool • Entertainment • Car park

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
31 Mar 12, 19, 26 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun	3, 10, 17, 24 Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19 Jun
from £55	from £109.95

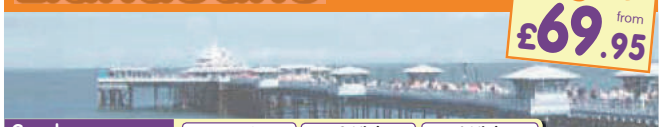
North Wales Prestatyn
★Adults only ★Half board breaks★
• Indoor pool • Entertainment • Car park

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
31 Mar, 14 Apr 5, 19, 26 May 2, 9, 16, 30 Jun	3, 17, 24 Apr 1, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 26 Jun
£49.95	£99.95

2/4 Nights from £49.95

Llandudno

2/3/4 Nights from £69.95



Grand Hotel
Nestled at the foot of the Great Orme with magnificent views over the bay, the seafront Grand Hotel overlooks the pier and promenade on the North Shore. Lift. Entertainment.

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★3 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
from £85	£109.95	£159.95
7, 21 Apr 5, 12, 19 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun 21 Jul	31 Mar, 7, 21 Apr 5, 12, 19, 26 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 Jul	1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Jul 7, 14, 21, 28 Aug

Ambassador Hotel
Owned by three generations of the Williams family, the Ambassador is a uniquely sited traditional hotel, on the promenade close to many attractions. Seafront. Lift. Car Park (fee).

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★3 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
from £69.95	£99.95	£129.95
7, 21 Apr 5, 12, 19 May 9, 16, 30 Jun 7, 21, 28 Jul	7, 14, 21, 28 Apr 5, 12, 19, 26 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 Jul	3, 10, 17, 24 Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jul 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Jul

Adamton House Hotel Monkton, Nr Ayr
★Visit Ayrshire Coast & Isle of Arran★
• Car Park • Famous golf courses nearby

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
£55	£99.95
31 Mar, 7, 21 Apr 5, 12, 19 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun	3, 10, 17, 24 Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun

New President Hotel Blackpool
★Seafront hotel near North Pier★
• Lift • Car Park (fee) • Entertainment

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
£59.95	£119.95
31 Mar, 21 Apr 5, 12, 19 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun	3, 10, 17, 24 Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun

Daresbury Park Hotel Nr Chester
★Visit Liverpool or Chester Zoo!★
• Lift • Car Park • Indoor Pool

★2 Nights Arrive Friday	★4 Nights Arrive Monday
£75	£149.95
31 Mar, 21 Apr 5, 12, 19 May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jun	3, 10, 17, 24 Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun

Britannia Hotel Manchester
★2 for 1 BAR DEALS 6pm-9pm ALL DATES★
• Lift • 500m from Piccadilly Station

★1 Night Arrive Sunday	★2 Nights Arrive Tuesday
£34.95	£69.95
2, 9, 23 Apr 7, 14, 21 May 4, 11, 18, 25 Jun	4, 11, 18, 25 Apr 2,9, 16, 23, 30 May 6, 13, 20, 27 Jun

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THEATRES

WHAT'S ON 2017

April
- **LES MCKEOWN'S BAY CITY ROLLERS** Saturday 1st
- **TOTALLY TINA** Friday 7th
- **GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND** Saturday 8th
- **MUSIC & MEMORIES** Wednesday 12th 2.30pm (Floral Hall) Pre - show lunch available

May
- **THE SOLID SILVER 60'S SHOW** Featuring THE MERSEYBEATS, DAVE BERRY, WAYNE FONTANA, CHRIS MONTEZ and VANITY FARE Friday 12th
- **KEN DODD - HAPPINESS SHOW** Saturday 13th
- **RUSSELL BRAND - RE:BIRTH** Tuesday 23rd
- **ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS:** LEE MEMPHIS KING Friday 26th

June
- **MR & MISS BRITAIN** Sunday 4th
- **JOE LONGTHORNE** Wednesday 7th
- **THE CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS** Saturday 24th

July
- **HERE COMES SUMMER** Wednesday 19th 2.30pm (Floral Hall) Pre - show lunch available
- **COUNTRY SUPERSTARS** Saturday 22nd
- **THE CARPENTERS STORY** Friday 28th
- **ROY CHUBBY BROWN** Saturday 29th

August
- **JOE McELDERRY - THE GLORIA TOUR** Thursday 3rd
- **THE ABBA REUNION TRIBUTE SHOW** Friday 4th
- **BARRY STEELE & FRIENDS: THE ROY ORBISON STORY** Saturday 5th
- **THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Saturday 26th

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Sun 27th Aug £119
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*admission to races

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5 days £319

SCOTLAND UNDER 'LOCH & QUAY'
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5 days £359

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Sun 2nd July ~ £109
Fri 15th Sept ~ £129

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Departs:
Sat 16th September
7 days £649

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5 days £299
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Mon 22nd May
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Mon 24th July
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LAKESIDE
Mon 31st July
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BODELWYDDAN
Mon 9th October
5 days £309
LITTLECOTE HOUSE
Mon 30th October
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HOLME LACY
Mon 6th November
5 days £339

April Day Excursions

Sat 1st	Llandudno	£13.90
Sun 2nd	Whitby	£19.90
Wed 5th	Bury Market & Steam Train *inc train*	£19.90
Fri 7th	Steam Yacht Gondola & Ambleside *inc cruise*	£24.90
Sat 8th	Ullswater Cruise & Ambleside via Kirkstone Pass	£23.90
Sun 9th	Chatsworth House *inc train*	£30.90
Wed 12th	Cadbury World *inc admission*	£28.90
Thu 13th	Concorde Tour *inc tour*	£34.90
Fri 14th	Betws-y-Coed & Welsh Highland Railway *inc train*	£27.90
Sun 16th	Haverthwaite Railway, Lake Cruise & Bowness *inc*	£26.90
Mon 17th	Portmeirion via Llangollen *inc admission*	£26.90
Wed 19th	The Famous Bury Market	£12.90

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MOUNTAIN BIKES Gents and Ladies, good condition £35 each 01704214498

CLOTHING

LADIES DRESS New Per-Una dress which still has shop labels on, black and white in colour, size 10 to 12, ideal for a wedding, racers or special occasion. Cost new £65. Also three more Per-Una dresses for sale. £25 07434841029

GENTS SUIT Brand new gents suit which still has labels on bought from Next, 36 inch waste, regular leg, jacket 40 regular, charcoal grey in colour, genuine reason for sale. Ideal for Aintree Racers. £59 07434841029

CLOTHING

LADIES CLOTHES 20 Items all new with labels still on, inc jacket, tops, trousers and dresses etc. Size 10/12 all good makes, from £5 to £25 each, genuine reason for selling, from £5 07434841029

LADIES JACKET Brand new Marks and Spencer's ladies short jacket, still has labels on. Black and white, size 14. Ideal for any occasion and a bargain. Also more jackets if needed £25 07434841029

MEN'S OVERCOAT black with Burgundy lining full length 76% wool size 52R. worn once like new bargain less than half price £60 01704220356

GENTS SUITS Chest 40/42" waist 36/38" leg 29" wool mix. Yves St Lauren, Horne Bros etc £10/15 each, email photos available. 0151 2860268

WEDDING DRESS Size 12/14. ivory, small train, cost £500, £200 ono. Lace, crystal and diamante bodice, very pretty. 0151 5234490

LONG CREAM dress, embroidered bodice, jacket to match , 10-12, £50. Cream dress, embroidered front, matching coat 10-12, £50 07796 247756

MEN'S CUFF links from House of Fraser "The Collection", silver/royal blue-oblong shape. Boxed. Worn once. Classy. £5 07821417560

MOTORCYCLE JACKET Scott leathers brand. textile blouson, Black with yellow trim. medium. Good condition. £20 07719863755

LADIES BLACK suede jacket, duffle buttons, pockets, soft lining M&S size 16 28" long from shoulder £16 07858 462998

JOCASI HANDBAG Black leather with shoulder strap. 2 compartments and zipped pocket. £18 01704 469459

SILVER SHOES ladies small heel, size 5.5. Small silver clutch bag to match, worn once for wedding £15 0151 9242440

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CLOTHING

WORK BOOTS steitz secura vortex heat resistant, size 43, never been used, still in box £25ono. 01704 510795

LADIES DARK grey Principles jacket excellent condition size 16 may deliver £9 ono 01515263851

LADIES PER Una dress cerise black and white worn once ideal special occasion size 16 may deliver £12 ono 01515263851

DRESS BY French Connection size 12 brand new still has labels on cost £55 accept £20 ono may deliver 01515263851

LADIES GREY SUEDE BOOTS "rocket dog" size 5 wedge heel lace up fronts fur lined new £35 07821417560

MAN'S M&S mid-grey shirt, Easycare range, long-sleeved, 39cm collar. Still sealed in wrapper. £4 07821417560

LADIES RED leather waist length jacket - size 12/14 Fastens with narrow waist belt. Ex con. £15 07821417560

SILK ARTISAN shoulder bag: beige/turquoise/terracotta coloured pattern. Bought in Turkey. Unused. £20 07821417560

BIKER JACKET Skin brand,Traditional rocker look. 40" chest. Good condition. £20 07719863755

MOTORCYCLE JACKET Scott leathers brand. Textile blouson. Black with red trim. Large. Good condition. £20 07719863755

LADIES COAT black 3/4 length. lined. size 22 worn once, as new £10 01704220356

LADIES JACKET beige size 12 from Next v.g.c. may deliver £8 ono 01515263851

MEN'S LEATHER shoes - tan, size 7. Worn only once. Classy looking pair. £8 07821417560

M&S FLUFFY HOUSECOAT dusky pink with tie belt size s/m good cond £7 07821417560

COMPUTING

WII BUNDLE Wii complete with all wires, charging station for controllers, rechargeable batteries. Wii fit, wii fit plus and the wii fit board. Bargain £25 07500803554

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COMPUTER CHAIR Computer chair black faux leather adjustable. Good condition for home or office use. Email photos available. £20 0151 2860268

TALK TALK branded D-Link power line Ethernet Adapters (2) with ethernet cable £10 07858 462998

MICROSOFT KEYBOARD Curved natural keyboard Elite. For Windows NT and Windows 98 £10 01704 469459

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APPLE KEYBOARD Apple wireless keyboard brand new £30.00 (cost £49) 01695572830

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FRONT DOOR Wooden colonial style. Used only 8 months. 31 3/4" x 77" Holes cut for catflap, locks & hinges. £25 Burscough 01704894738

DIY

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STAPLE GUN Stanley heavy duty hand staple gun bought for one-off job. As new. £15.00 01704 546978

DOORS 2 No 78"x 30" Inch x 44mm, 1 No 78"x 30" x 35mm White flush doors, Any offer 0151 2341794

STANLEY MOBILE work station . Virtually unused. £19 . 07966101288

ALUMINIUM LADDER 6 foot long £10 01704 532648

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DELUXE BIRD Feeder. metal construction 4 hanging hooks/2 dish holders/water dish/ mesh dish/ seed feeder/suet ball feeder/cake feeder/nut feeder. Brand New and boxed£15 01704220356

ROCKERY STONES 45 Large heavy rockery stones, grey in colour. Buyer to collect from Ainsdale, Southport. £70. 07871636693

JALO GARDENER Push hoe in very good condition comes with pair of hoes (cultivators) £35.00 Tel:07720920640

ALUMINIUM GREENHOUSE 12' x 8' greenhouse. Buyer to dismantle and remove. Banks, Southport. £150 01704 212305

QUALCAST 1600W Rotary Law Mower as New used only a couple of times £55.00 ono Buyer to Collect 0151 2341794

GARDEN SHED 6x4', heavy duty, ex cond, stored undercover £130. buyer collects. 07930 980981

DUCK STONES Duck stones ideal for water feature. Different sizes and colours. £3 for larger and £2 for medium . 01704 634375

POND LINER Heavy duty black butyl. Unused. Approx 16ft x 33inches. Left over from project. £20 Burscough 01704894738

BLACK&DECKER rotary lawn mower with roller, not had much use £45 0151 4767482

COBBLE STONES Large granite sets heavy ideal for garden borders £3 each 01704 634375

BLACK HOUSEHOLD BIN with clip on lid, durable, never used ex con £5 07821417560

HOBBIES

TAMA IRON COBRA DOUBLE BASS PEDAL and hard case £80 Tel:07735 427492

MAPEX drum kit. As new, 6 piece with cymbals £395. Tel: 07735 427492

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WADDINGTONS SPYRING game 2-4 players original 1960s version original box not used £8 07821417560

PAPERBACK BOOKS Josephine Cox x 6, Lyn Andrews x 8, Ruth Hamilton x 6, all good condition, 40p each 01519249344

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HIGHLANDER TENT Cypress 4 birth. Teal. Unwanted competition prize £80 07855977802

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YAMAHA AMP 300w 12 channel mixer/effects, 2 x 8m speakon speaker leads, great condition. Southport centre £185 01704 542012

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HOUSE AND HOME

SETTEE CREAM 3 piece, Neutral with dark patterns. £175 very good condition.Settee 3 piece Cream/Beige, wool.£75.01704 547316

FOLDING DINING TABLE and 4 chairs. VGC. £40. 01695 624223

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MORPHY RICHARDS BREAD-MAKER Make your own bread with this 48220 Series Fastbake, which is in very good condition, white in colour. Makes bread, runs, muffins, doughnuts, cake mix and much more. £20 07434841029

WOODEN BLANKET CHEST Ideal for storing items of any kind, 35"x19"x24" high. Nice condition in a medium oak with a panel design to front. Very strong and sturdy, not antique. £59 07434841029

KRUPS MELODY Dolce Gusto coffee maker by Nescafe. Black. includes £10 voucher and sample coffee pods Brand New Boxed Bargain £40 01704220356

DYSON ACCESSORIES extending flexible crevice brush/small crevice brush/wand/collection tank/ connector for parts to fit any dysons. Filter and more Bargain £15 01704220356

ORIENTAL STATUE Oriental Lady Electrically Illuminated Statue. Very unusual. Hand-painted, heavy pottery, 17" high. Over 50 yrs old. Picture available. £20.00 01704 893484

HOUSE AND HOME

CONSERVATOY FURNITURE Whicker, Hand made cost over £2500. Three chairs and smoked glass tables, cushions looks great first to see will buy £279 07767790187

OIL PAINTING (13.5"x11.5") of country cottage with waterwheel on riverbank: blue/brown/mustard colours. In mahogany frame/gold gilt edging. £5 07821417560

LEATHER SUITE Cream 3 seater electric recliner and recliner chair by lazyboy excellent condition must be seen £395 01704211265

COMPUTER DESK Computer/laptop black glass and chrome stylish good quality with pull out keyboard shelf cost new £135 accept £35 01704 571642

DOUBLE BED Cream metal ornate head and foot complete with very clean double mattress. Secure slatted base £90 ono 07887 597078

TEFAL ACTIFRY white. Bought late last year hardly used/ like new with instructions and recipe booklet. Bargain less than half price £50 01704220356

SHOWER CUBICLE Brand new 1200x760 shower tray with sliding door and side panel never used still in packaging bargain £160 Tel 01704 628190

DINING CHAIRS Six modern solid Ash Dining Chairs Slat back Black faux seats Shop price £570 Our price £190 Like New Ormskirk 01695574988

LAMP SHADES Traditional fabric Standard Lamp Shades One pale cream One pale floral Good condition Bargain £8 each Ormskirk 01695574988

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HOUSE AND HOME

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STORAGE RACKS 18 yellow plastic sturdy interlocking vegetable storage racks L13.75" x W12.5" x D7". £10. Email photo available. 0151 2860268

COFFEE TABLE Hexagon shaped mahogany glass top coffee table with bottom shelf in good condition £25 01704 211689

PINE BOOKCASE Size approx. H 35 x W 35 x D 12 inches. I fixed shelf 2 adjustable shelves. Bun feet honey colour pine £20 May deliver. 01704 560150

LARGE MIRROR Bevelled mirror in wooden walnut frame. Size 96 cm x 96 cm. Very good condition. £28. May deliver. 01704 560150

INTERNAL DOORS 6 white panel design, all second hand, most with hinges, various sizes, £6 each, buyer collects 01695 558875

BEDSIDE UNITS Pair of pine bedside units, drawer at top, open section at bottom, very nice condition £20 ono 01515327853

WHITE CHEST of drawers £5. Brown 3 drawer desk £5. Bedside table £5. Old drop leaf table with barley sugar twist legs£5 0151 2930174

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HOUSE AND HOME

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HOUSE AND HOME

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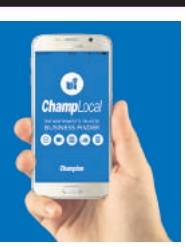

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JOHN LEWIS gold oval mirror, excellent condition 24" x 19" £35 0151 5317785

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Wednesday 19th April 2017 at 12.00 noon
Interviews: TBA

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HUMPHRIES IRENE

The family of the late Irene Humphries wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement, and also for the donations to Barnado's. Thanks to Ken Howles for a comforting service, and to the staff of Cookson Tyrer Funeralcare in Burscough for funeral arrangements.

SWIFT PHILIP

Colette and the family of the late Philip Swift would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the sympathy cards, Mass cards and donations received during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Palliative and District nurses, Care Concern and Silver Birch Lodge for all the nursing care and attention shown to Phil. Also special thanks to Father Boniface and Deacon Mac for their kind words of comfort and support, and to MLS Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements.

FARRELL SHEILA

The family of the late Shelia Farrell would like to express their heart felt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their messages of condolence, sympathy cards and donations for 'The National Osteoporosis Society' received during their recent sad loss. Thanks also to Father Godric, Father Boniface and Deacon Des for their kind words of comfort and to MLS Independent Funeral Directors for the dignified Funeral arrangements.

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WINROW JOHN

31st March 2010

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DEATHS

TICKLE JOHN WESLEY

After a short illness, peacefully in hospital on 18th March 2017 aged 86 years

Much loved Husband of Dorothy. Much loved Dad of Carol and Audrey. Dear Father in law of Kevin and Dave. Devoted Granddad of Jenny, Richard, Paul and Mark. A much loved Uncle of all his nieces and nephews. John will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough, at 1.45pm on Monday 3rd April 2017, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Emmanuel Methodist United Reformed Church, Ormskirk. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for The Stroke Association. Further enquiries to Co-operative Funeralcare, 22c Wigan Road, Ormskirk L39 2AU. Tel: 01695 577244

ASPINALL ERIC

After a short illness, in Southview Lodge, on 22nd March 2017, aged 86 years

Dearly loved Husband of the late Rosemary. Dear Dad of Nita. Dear Father-in-law of Alan. Dear Grandad of David and Great-Grandad of Joseph. Eric will be sadly missed by all his family and friends and all who knew him. The Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 4th April 2017 at 1.45pm. Family flowers only by request please, but the family are gratefully receiving donations for the British Heart Foundation. All enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeralcare, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU. Tel 01704 897770.

DEATHS

RIDDAWAY LEWIS IVAN

Peacefully in The Spinney Nursing Home Upholland 21st march 2017

Aged 91 years

Goodnight,Godbless Dad,Grandad,Great Grandad and Great Great Grandad. Joyfully now in heaven.Sadly Missed by all his friends and family. The funeral service will be held at St Helens Crematorium on Monday 3rd April at 10.30 am.All enquiries to Skelmersdale Funeral Service Ltd 01695 559868

STABLES JOAN

20th March 2017 Peacefully in hospital Aged 84 years of Bickerstaffe

The dearly loved Wife of the late Colin, loving Mum of Tony and Chris, dear Mother-in-law of Sandra and Soulla, devoted Nan of Sam, Vicki and Albert and Great Nan to Jamie, Ella, Aidan, Aaron, Luis and Cameron. Funeral service and Interment at St Paul's Church, Skelmersdale on Thursday 6th April 2017 at 12 noon. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman & H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

McNALLY ANDREW JOSEPH R.I.P.

17th March 2017 Aged 76 years

Peacefully at Tudor Bank Nursing Home. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him. Requiem Mass to take place at Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Church, Waterloo Road on Monday 3rd April at 1:00pm followed by interment at Ainsdale Catholic Cemetery. Flowers welcome. All enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

HALSALL MARGARET ROSE (PEGGY)

Nee BONIFACE

19th March 2017

Peacefully after a long illness, aged 85 years, formerly of Ormskirk

The dearly loved Wife of the late Leo, loving Mum of Annette, Karen and Robert, dear Mother-in-law of Peter and devoted Grandma to all her Grandchildren and Great Grandson. Requiem mass at St Anne's RC Church, Ormskirk on Thursday 30th March 2017 at 9.30am followed by interment at Sacred Heart RC Cemetery, Liverpool Road, Ainsdale. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale & Scarisbrick. Tel 01695 722122/720012.

FREEMAN DOROTHY

22nd March 2017 Peacefully in hospital Aged 92 years of Burscough.

Devoted Wife of the late David Peter Freeman, dearly loved Mum of Janice, and the late Valerie. Much loved Grandma of Nicola, Sarah and Tonia, and Great-Grandma of Ellissa. Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 31st March at 1.20pm. Family flowers only please, donations if so desired for Alzheimer's Research and Dementia UK. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Tele: 01704 891555

KENWRIGHT ERNEST

Died peacefully at home on Sunday 19th March 2017, aged 96 years

Joan and the family thank everyone for their condolences. The funeral service will take place at St Helens Church, Sefton on Thursday 30th March at 10.40am followed by private cremation at Thornton Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Broadgreen Hospital or North West Ambulance Service c/o H Leslie Humphreys Funeral Directors, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE. Tel 0151 9244805.

DEATHS

ASHCROFT MARION

Passed away peacefully on 20th March 2017

Aged 91 years

Mother of Mark and Gerald, Granny to Callum, Georgia, Adam and Nick, Great Grandmother to Brooke, Charlie and Madison. Family flowers only but donations in memory of Marion and her late Husband Gerald are being gratefully received for Cancer Research UK. Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 7th April at 12.15pm. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 572997

SIMPKIN NELLIE

(The Wife of the late Jimmy Simpkin) sadly passed away peacefully at Wigan Infirmary on 20th March 2017 Aged 87 years

She will be deeply missed by her loving family and friends. The Funeral Service will take place at Alma Hill Methodist Church on Thursday 30th March 2017 at 3pm. Followed by committal at Charnock Richard Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Cancer Research UK. All enquiries to W.Banks of Orrell, Sefton Villa, Sefton Road, Orrell. Tel: 01695 622272

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DEATHS

TREASURE FRANK LOUIS

22nd March 2017 Aged 94 years

Passed away peacefully at his home at The Royal Hospital Chelsea, formerly of Beechwood Drive, Ormskirk. Cherished Husband of Edna (deceased) and a loving Father to Patricia, Celia and Charlie. Loving Grandfather of Lucille, Julian and Isabelle. Great Grandfather of Joseph. Funeral to be held at Christ Church, Aughton on Friday 31st March at 11am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Royal Hospital Chelsea Appeal Ltd c/o MLS Independent Funeral Directors Ltd, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Lancs L39 5DZ Tel: 01695 424888

CAMERON DONALD (BIG DON)

24th March 2017 Peacefully in hospital Aged 63 years

Loving Husband of Barbara, Devoted Dad of Donny & Charles. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Friday 7th April at 4.00pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for North West Air Ambulance. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

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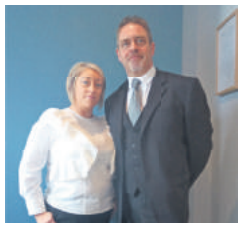

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Friday 24th March 2017

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£100.....Mrs Cook, Skelmersdale

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(HIGGINS LANE, BURSCOUGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Higgins Lane, New Lane and Marsh Moss Lane, Burscough from Liverpool Road South to Marsh Moss Lane.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0600 hours until 1800 hours from Monday 03rd April 2017 until Friday 28th April 2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Tarlscough Lane, Redcat Lane, Liverpool Road North, Liverpool Road South and Vice Versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow Carriageway Surface Dressing works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/7086/WH]

www.lancashire.gov.uk Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(GREEN LANE, BISPHAM, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Green Lane, Bispham from Hall Lane to Malt Kiln Lane.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0600 hours to 1800 hours on Monday 10th April 2017 until Friday 5th May 2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Maltkiln Lane – Chorley Road – Robin Lane – Hall Lane.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow carriageway surface dressing works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/7094/WH]

www.lancashire.gov.uk Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BANNISTER LANE, WRIGHTINGTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Bannister Lane, Wrightington from Bentley Lane to Whittle Lane.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0600 hours until 1700 hours on Monday 10th April 2017 to Friday 5th May 2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Whittle Lane – Highmoor Lane – Robin Hood Lane – Hall Lane – Sparrow Lane – Parbold Hill – Lancaster Lane – Chorley Road and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow Surface dressing works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made: Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/7095/WH]

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(WHEAT LANE, LATHOM, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Wheat Lane, Lathom from its junction with Carr Lane, to its junction with A5209 Briars Lane in the Borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours on Monday 27th March 2017 until 1800 hours on Wednesday 29th March 2017 or, until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- A5209 Briars Lane – Ring o Bell's Lane – Carr Lane and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow new water connection works to be carried out. Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/17/08/6949/arh]

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LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BRICK KILN LANE, RUFFORD, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Brick Kiln Lane, Rufford from Holmeswood Road to Tootle Lane.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0600 hours until 1800 hours on Monday 10th April 2017 until Friday 5th May 2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Holmeswood Road – Cousins Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow carriageway patching works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/7090/WH]

www.lancashire.gov.uk Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(ROBIN HOOD LANE, WRIGHTINGTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Robin Hood Lane, Wrightington from Hall Lane to Hill House Folds Lane.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0600 hours to 1800 hours on Monday 03rd April 2017 until Friday 28th April 2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Hall Lane, Moss Lane, Hill House Folds Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow Carriageway Surface Dressing works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/7093/WH]

www.lancashire.gov.uk Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(SCARTH HILL LANE, ORMSKIRK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) (No.3) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Scarth Hill Lane, Ormskirk from its junction with Long Lane to its junction with Poppy Lane, in the Borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0600 hours until 1800 hours on Monday 27th March 2017 to Friday 21st April 2017 or, until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Long Lane – Ruff Lane – Croppers Lane – Poppy Lane and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable essential carriageway resurfacing to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/17/08/7162/arh]

www.lancashire.gov.uk Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(MILL LANE, AUGHTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle or cycle, to proceed over that length of Mill Lane, Aughton from its junction with A59 Northway to its junction with B5195 Formby Lane, in the Borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0930 hours on Monday 27th March 2017 until 1630 hours on Friday 12th May 2017 or, until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is as follows:- B5195 Formby Lane – Turnpike Road – A59 Northway and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable gas main replacement works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/17/08/6851/arh]

www.lancashire.gov.uk Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(SMITHY LANE, SCARISBRICK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Smithy Lane, Scarisbrick from its junction with A570 Southport Road to its junction with B5242 Heaton's Bridge Road in the Borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0700 hours until 1700 hours on Friday 24th March 2017 to Friday 31st March 2017 or, until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- A570 Southport Road – B5242 Bescar Brow Lane – B5242 Hall Road – B5242 Dam Wood Lane - B5242 Heaton's Bridge Road and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/17/08/6689/arh]

www.lancashire.gov.uk Lancashire County Council

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2017/0158/ARM Approval of Reserved Matters for the development of 110 houses and apartments, accessed from Liverpool Road South including details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale at Land Bounded By Liverpool Road South, Abbey Lane, Burscough.

Application No: 2017/0188/FUL Demolition of a timber agricultural building and its replacement with a general purpose steel portal frame agricultural building to be used for livestock housing and general storage on land at Danes End at Danes End, Back Lane, Newburgh.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2017/0184/FUL The erection of a 2.5-storey detached dwelling with single storey elements to each side and the rear. The property to be a 6 bedroom dwelling situated to the north of the plot at Friars Wood, Lancaster Lane, Parbold.

Application No: 2017/0256/LBC Listed Building Consent - Removal of concrete and brick panels from timber framed Great Hall south wing and gable end. To be replaced with traditional materials to allow flexibility in the frame at National Trust, Rufford Old Hall, 200 Liverpool Road, Rufford.

Application No: 2017/0271/FUL Change of use from flat over shop into 6 bedroom student HMO including window replacement at First Floor, 9 Aughton Street, Ormskirk.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 29th March 2017
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT942

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER
SECTION 53 OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY FOR THE COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE
THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT ELMERS GREEN, SKELMERSDALE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2016

The above Order, made on the 2nd November 2016, if confirmed as made, will modify the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way for the area, by adding to them the footpath from its junction with Elmers Green at SD 4991 0652, located between 14 and 16 Elmers Green, running in an east north easterly direction for approximately 25 metres to a junction with the highway recorded as F2696 at SD 4993 0653.

A copy of the Order and the Order Map may be seen free of charge at the offices of the West Lancashire Borough and at my offices from 9am to 5pm on weekdays. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £1.00.

Any representation or objection relating to the order must be sent in writing to The Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services, Lancashire County Council, PO Box 78, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ (REF: LSG4/PROW/5.54050/804.564) not later than 16th May 2017, and applicants are requested to state the grounds on which it is made.

If no representations or objections are duly made to the Order, or if any so made are withdrawn, Lancashire County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State for the Environment, may itself confirm the Order. If the Order is submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment, any representations or objections which have been duly made and not withdrawn will be sent with it.

Dated this 29th day of March 2017.

IAN YOUNG, Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, PRESTON PR1 8XJ

This does not form part of the above Notice

Please note that information supplied will be used in accordance with the processes under Statute and will not be confidential and may be disclosed to third parties.

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(WEST LANCASHIRE SPRING TRIATHLON EVENT, WESTHEAD, LATHOM, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council ("The County Council") intend to make an Order under **Section 16A of the** Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle or cycle (apart from those participating in the event) from proceeding over the following lengths of highway, in the Borough of West Lancashire, as set out below;.

i. School Lane, from its junction with Vicarage Lane to its junction with Whiteley's Lane,
ii. Ruff Lane, from its junction with Vicarage Lane to its junction with Scarth Hill Lane,
iii. Whiteley's Lane from its junction with Scarth Hill Lane to its junction with A577 Wigan Road (Lathom),
iv. Vicarage Lane in a North East and Easterly direction from its junction with Ruff Lane to its junction with School Lane,
v. Ruff Lane in a South Easterly direction from its junction with Beech Meadow to its junction with Vicarage Lane

An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closures is as follows;
i. Ruff Lane - A570 Knowsley Road – A577 Wigan Road – A577 Cross Hall Brow – A577 Wigan Road and vice versa
ii. Ruff Lane - A570 Knowsley Road – A577 Wigan Road – A577 Cross Hall Brow – School Lane – Vicarage Lane
iii. A577 Wigan Road – A577 Cross Hall Brow – A577 Wigan Road A570 St Helens Road – Scarth Hill Lane and vice versa

Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times, vehicular access will be maintained whenever and wherever possible.

The Police, Fire and Ambulance Services have been informed.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable the safe holding of the West Lancashire Spring Triathlon event 2017.

The prohibitions will be operative from, 0700 hours until 1230 hours on Sunday 9th April 2017, or sooner if the event finishes earlier

Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/17/08/7226/arh]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(TOOTLE LANE, RUFFORD, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Tootle Lane, Rufford from its junction with Mere Lane, to its junction with Brick Kiln Lane in the Borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours on Monday 3rd April 2017 until 1700 hours on Friday 7th April 2017 or, until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Mere Lane – Sandy Way – B5246 Holmeswood Road – Cousins Lane and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow new electrical cabling works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:

Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/17/08/6558/arh]

Lancashire County Council
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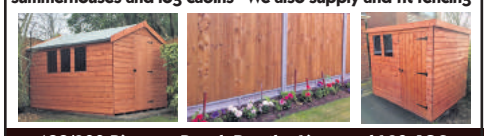

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IT'S NOT often Tinie Tempah and I agree on something. It's true that – like our rapper friend – I've been to Southampton but never to Scunthorpe (but I wonder if Tinie's ever been to Southport). But other than that we move in very different circles.

But Britain's best known Lamborghini Huracán owner does, as it transpires from watching the telly the other night, have one weird passion in common. I'm wondering if he can be appointed honourary president of Classified Adsaholic Anonymous.

I've always been an addict, hooked on the idea that a lightly used Audi S8 for four grand or a laggy-looking Porsche Boxster for about the same is only a phone call away. Sometimes I'd act on my impulses, picking out obscure-looking deals I'd found on the internet or through scouring the classifieds pages in The Champion.

For a while I thought I'd kicked the habit, content that a daily fix of a £1000 Mazda MX-5, a Toyota Avensis that cost £900 and various classic cars that always seem to cost more money than you'd imagine would be more than enough.

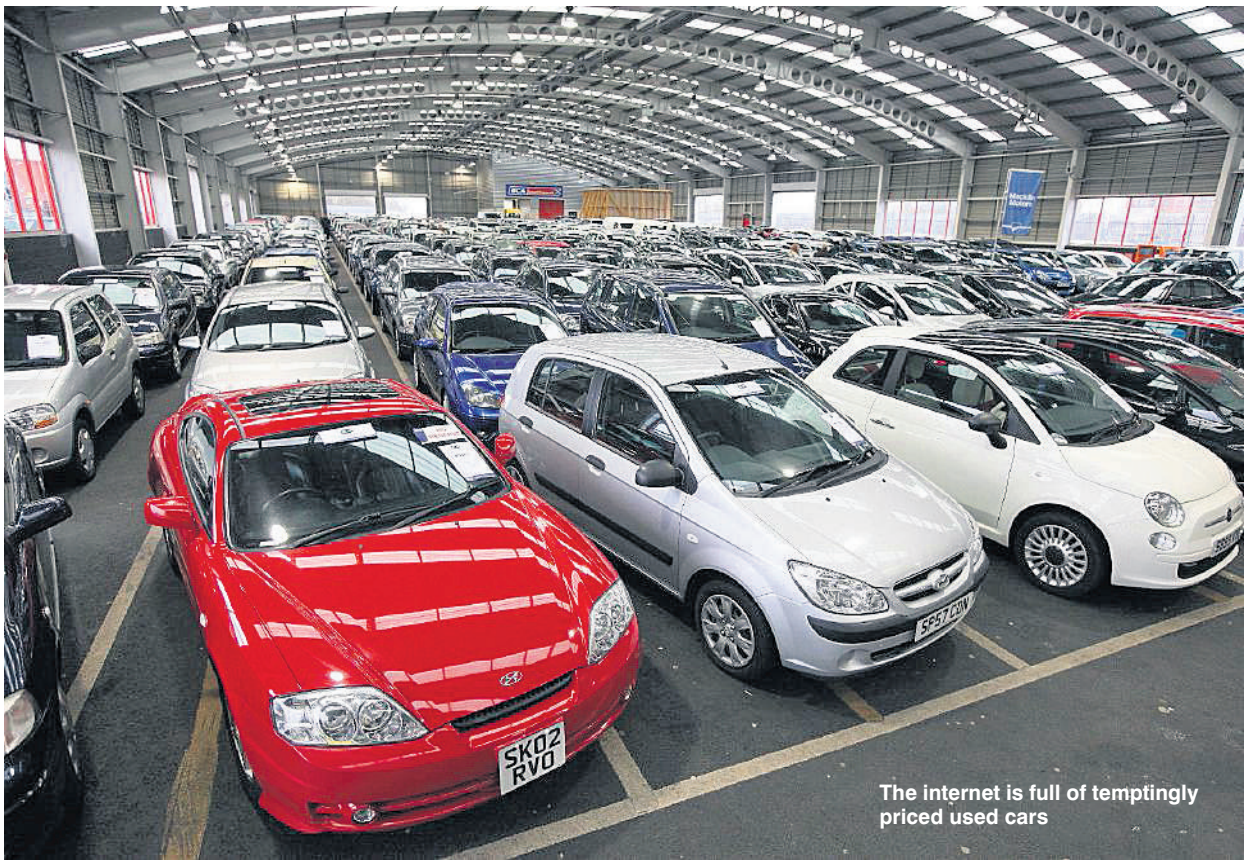
But then I downloaded Tinie Tempah's recommended legal high for used car junkies – the Auto Trader app – and I have to admit it's on the verge of ruining my life. The giddy, childlike thrill of flicking through coarse pages chock-full of reasonably priced used cars, so cruelly robbed from us when the weekly magazine went out of print four years ago, is back.

But whereas the joy of used car classifieds used to come from spotting the obscure bargain buried within 20 pages of blurry pictures, FSHs and ONOs, nowadays it's all about setting ridiculous search parameters and seeing what the internet comes back with. Want to know what the best four-door saloon for under £1500 is within a five-mile radius of Skelmersdale? Or Ormskirk's best five-grand sports car? Bet you do now.

It's weirdly addictive, but it does have its plus side; the more you do it the more likely you are to end up with a corking used car bargain. You end up getting to know the prices, what the faults are with various models and which dodgy brand of alloy wheels owners end up fitting to them, and ultimately knowledge is power. It's much harder to get ripped off by an unscrupulous seller when you're a Classified Adsaholic who knows exactly what a 2003 Volkswagen Golf 1.6 Match with five doors, service history and 99,000 on the clock is worth.

So give it a go – you won't regret it. If you end up buying something, blame Tinie Tempah.

David is the editor of Classic Car Weekly



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60 FORD S-MAX TITANIUM X SPORT TDCI 5DR, black, full service history, new model, phone prep, full glass roof, alloys, A/C

£8,990 or FROM £50 a week

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£4,990 or FROM £28 a week

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£4,990 or FROM £28 a week

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09 BMW 3 SERIES 2.0 318D SE 4DR, blue, service history, motorway miles, new shape, 1 company owner, great spec

£3,890 or FROM £22 a week
WAS £3,990

58 FORD FOCUS 2.0 CC3 2DR, bronze, 59,000 miles, service history, alloys, 2 keys, electric windows

10 VOLKSWAGEN TOUAREG 3.0 V6 SE TDI 5DR AUTO, silver, full service history, alloys, 2 keys, facelift model, cruise control, climate control ..... £10,690 or from £59 a week
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06 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI S LINE 2DR, silver, service history, alloys, new model, full leather, BOSE surround, climate control ..... £4,790 or from £27 a week
09 CITROEN C5 2.0 VTR PLUS HDI 4DR, white, 1 company owner, full service history, great spec, half leather, new shape ..... £4,790 or from £27 a week
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62 FIESTA 1.6TDCi, only 37,700 miles.....from £4,995+VAT
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12 VIVARO Sportive Silver, 86,000 miles.....£6,995+VAT
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Deposit Allowance	£1,800	Optional Final Payment	£4,750
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£1,226.07
Customer Deposit	£179	Total Amount Payable	£15,940
Amount of Credit	£11,936.93	APR Representative	4.6%

Brand New Vauxhall Adam
1.2i Energised 3dr
£500 minimum part exchange

For just **£179 per month**
Over **47 months** with **£179 Customer deposit**

Cash Price	£13,947.92	47 Monthly Payments	£179
Deposit Allowance	£1,600	Optional Final Payment	£4,440
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£1,184.08
Customer Deposit	£179	Total Amount Payable	£15,132
Amount of Credit	£11,668.92	APR Representative	3.7%

Brand New Vauxhall Astra
1.4 Energy 125PS 5dr
£500 minimum part exchange

For just **£209 per month**
Over **47 months** with **£399 Customer deposit**

Cash Price	£17,300	47 Monthly Payments	£209.04
Deposit Allowance	£2,000	Optional Final Payment	£6,080
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£1,503.88
Customer Deposit	£399	Total Amount Payable	£18,803.88
Amount of Credit	£14,401	APR Representative	3.7%

Brand New Vauxhall Corsa
1.4 Special Edition Energy 90PS 5dr
£500 minimum part exchange

For just **£159 per month**
Over **47 months** with **£159 Customer deposit**

Cash Price	£12,905.47	47 Monthly Payments	£159
Deposit Allowance	£1,800	Optional Final Payment	£4,038
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£1,064.53
Customer Deposit	£159	Total Amount Payable	£14,268
Amount of Credit	£10,446.47	APR Representative	4.8%

Brand New Vauxhall Viva
1.0 SE A/C
£500 minimum part exchange

For just **£149 per month**
Over **47 months** with **£149 Customer deposit**

Cash Price	£9,343	Optional Final Payment	£3,325
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£1,634
Customer Deposit	£149	Total Amount Payable	£10,977
Amount of Credit	£8,694	APR Representative	6.9%
47 Monthly Payments	£149		

Brand New Vauxhall Corsa
1.4 Special Edition Energy 90PS 3dr
£500 minimum part exchange

For just **£149 per month**
Over **47 months** with **£149 Customer deposit**

Cash Price	£12,334.58	47 Monthly Payments	£149
Deposit Allowance	£1,800	Optional Final Payment	£3,895
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£1,012.42
Customer Deposit	£149	Total Amount Payable	£13,645
Amount of Credit	£9,885.58	APR Representative	4.8%

Brand New Vauxhall Mokka X
1.4T Active
£500 minimum part exchange

For just **£229 per month**
Over **47 months** with **£499 Customer deposit**

Cash Price	£18,853.10	47 Monthly Payments	£229
Deposit Allowance	£2,400	Optional Final Payment	£6,288
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£1,596.90
Customer Deposit	£499	Total Amount Payable	£20,450
Amount of Credit	£15,454.10	APR Representative	3.7%

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SUNDAY 2ND APRIL

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CAR SWAP PRICE £10,798*

CITROEN C3 PICASSO
HDi BLUE EDITION — 2016 REG

ORIGINALLY £18,500
SAVE £7,618
CAR SWAP PRICE £10,882*

SUZUKI BALENO — 2016 REG

ORIGINALLY £13,499
SAVE £2,507
CAR SWAP PRICE £10,992*

NISSAN QASHQAI
N-TEC DIESEL — 2012 REG

ORIGINALLY £13,995
SAVE £3,001
CAR SWAP PRICE £10,994*

CITROEN C4 PICASSO — 2015 REG

ORIGINALLY £14,095
SAVE £2,613
CAR SWAP PRICE £11,482*

KIA SPORTAGE 1.7
CRDi — 2014 REG

ORIGINALLY £14,940
SAVE £3,066
CAR SWAP PRICE £11,874*

MINI COOPER
5dr — 2014 REG

ORIGINALLY £13,995
SAVE £2,003
CAR SWAP PRICE £11,992*

VAUXHALL ASTRA VXR
3dr — 2014 REG

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FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5dr

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62 MERCEDES-BENZ E220 CDI AVANTGARDE AUTO 4DR, iridium silver, full leather interior, A/C, Bluetooth, full audio suite, alloys etc, 34,000 miles only **£14,999**

14 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST (125ps 6spd), frozen white, appearance pack, Bluetooth, upgraded alloys, lots of MPG ..... **only £8,999**

14 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 VISIA, frost white, alloys, A/C, CD/radio etc ..... **outstanding value at £7,499**

63 KUGA ZETEC TDCI, frozen white, privacy glass, roof rails, A/C, alloys, 18,000 miles, one owner **£13,499**

63 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 N-TEC, choice of colours, panoramic roof, sat nav, reversing camera etc ..... **from only £10,999**

63 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 1.6 TDCI NAVIGATOR ESTATE, moondust silver, sat nav, Bluetooth, keyless go & lots more, 25,000 miles only ..... **less than half price £9,999**

63 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SE 2.0 CDTI, carbon black, half leather trim, alloys, A/C & Elec pack etc ..... **only £8,999**

63 FORD FIESTA 1.6 TITANIUM AUTO 5DR, frozen white, CD, Bluetooth, alloys, A/C, privacy glass, 33,000 miles **£8,499**

63 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 DESIGN, star silver or race red, alloys, A/C, CD radio, 27,000 miles only **£7,499**

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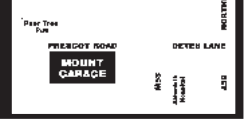

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Burscough need win to have hope of avoiding drop

SKELMERSDALE begin their post-relegation fixtures with a trip to Halesowen Town this Saturday in the hope of picking up a much-needed morale boosting win.

With no chance or surviving the drop, Skelmersdale have six games remaining this season to help put a smile back on the face of supporters.

But after it was revealed that the club's entire future is now in doubt, fans will be even more desperate to see their side find a positive result.

With only one win since November and 20 goals conceded in their last three games, it's difficult to see where Skelmersdale can pick up three points.

Meanwhile, Burscough's slim hopes of avoiding relegation will depend on their trip this Saturday to Colwyn Bay.

The mid-table side don't have much left to play for in the league, with little threat of relegation, so the Linnets could cause an upset.

They are on the road again on Tuesday, April 4 when they travel to Prescot Cables, who are fighting for survival themselves.

If Burscough can pick up a positive result on Saturday at Colwyn Bay, it will be all to play for then at Prescot three days later.

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Jamie Green scores Buxton's opener. Picture by John Driscoll

Six of the worst for Skem as they face relegation

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Skelmersdale United 0
Buxton 6

SKELMERSDALE were relegated from the Evo-Stik League Northern Premier Division after conceding six goals.

They followed up their 10-1 defeat on Tuesday, March 21 at home to Ashton United with another heavy defeat to end all hopes of surviving in the division.

After arguably being a bit unfortunate to go a goal down just before half-time, they had defender Michael Vaughan-Muscat sent off for a second yellow card three minutes into the second-half and literally collapsed defensively, conceding four goals in 14 minutes.

It had all started quite brightly for Skem. After Buxton's Niall Doran had fired over the crossbar early on, Vaughan-Muscat headed over the Buxton crossbar then Seb Bradshaw shot wide.

Both teams cancelled each other out for the next 25 minutes or so, but in the 41st minute that all changed.

Buxton left-back Jamie Green sent a free-kick over the wall then dipping inside the post to give the visitors a 1-0 interval lead.

Skelmersdale almost tied things up seconds after the break when Remy Howarth got in down the left side of the Buxton defence but his shot was weak.

In the 48th minute Vaughan-Muscat tripped Grayson, who was through on goal, and duly received his second yellow of the game to reduce Skelmersdale to 10 men.

Buxton took advantage, scoring twice in three minutes both from Green corners. First a diving header from Greg Young crashed the ball high inside the near-post, then after a failure to clear the lines, Grayson drilled the ball low into the opposite corner.

Skem didn't give up but the organisation of the previous 45 minutes was shattered.

On 62 minutes former Workington midfielder Joe McGee headed in a Green corner, then from a Green free-kick Liam Hardy headed home.

The shell-shocked Skelmersdale youngsters did recover a level of composure, but Buxton managed one more, Hardy volleying home from an Alastair Taylor cross.

Beleaguered Skelmersdale manager Alan Rogers said in his post match interview: "The first-half performance was decent, the lads showed commitment and worked hard and they had a couple of chances.

"They come out for the second-half and the sending off changes everything, after what's been going on heads dropped."

Next up for Skelmersdale is an away trip to Halesowen Town this Saturday.

Luckless Linnets lose again after spirited performance

Burscough 1
Kendal Town 3

ANOTHER spirited performance from Burscough but it was the same result as they lost to the same opposition for the second time in as many weeks.

After going in at the interval 2-0 down the Linnets fought back and soon pulled a goal back, however they quickly conceded again and despite pressing hard for the rest of the second-half couldn't get themselves back in to the game.

Kendal are a good attacking force and Burscough goalkeeper Richie Mottram was kept busy in the early stages of the match.

In the 18th minute Bowman went close again, shooting wide after pouncing on a loose ball in the Linnets goalmouth.

Kendal got their first goal after 33 minutes. Sam Bailey moved down the right and released Matt Dudley in the middle and he finished nicely from close range.

It took Kendal just two minutes to make it 2-0. Sam Bailey was completely unmarked when he thundered in a shot that due to its force got past Mottram.

Kendal then showed that they could defend as Burscough had a spell on the front foot before the interval but were kept out well by the Town defence.

Burscough have a tendency to score after the restart and this time it took them just three minutes to pull a goal back when Phil Bannister finished off a tidy move.

However, the Burscough goal seemed to motivate Kendal to attack again and on the 50-minute mark Dudley got his second and the team's third, capitalising on a mistake in the Linnets defence.

Burscough now had to go strongly onto the offensive and as a result they left gaps at the back that Kendal sought to exploit on the breakaway.

For Burscough, Adam Gilchrist went close and Bannister was particularly unlucky to have a goal-bound effort cleared off the line.

If that had gone in it might have been a different story.

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